

**North Carolina Association of Municipal Electric Systems**



TO: Safety Contacts for Rodeo Participants  
FROM: NCAMES Safety & Training Committee  
DATE: February 16, 2025

SUBJECT: NCAMES 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Lineman's Rodeo / NCAMES Conference

The NCAMES Safety & Training Committee is pleased to announce the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual NCAMES Lineman's Rodeo, which will be held on May 21, 2026, in Dallas, North Carolina. Please find the attached Rodeo Packet for detailed information regarding the event.

To participate in the rodeo, each participant must have a completed entry form, release, and waiver agreement, all of which must be signed by the participant's supervisor. These documents must be submitted no later than April 20, 2026. **NO ENTRIES**, substitutions, or changes to participant information will be accepted after this date, as additional event logistics must be finalized.

All required documentation should be submitted to:

Michael "Kool-Aid" Caswell Jr.  
NCAMES Safety & Training Chairman  
[caswellm@newbernnc.gov](mailto:caswellm@newbernnc.gov)

In addition, all participants are required to complete a NCAMES Conference Registration Form and submit the appropriate payment. The completed registration form and payment must be sent no later than April 20, 2026, to:

Gail Boggs  
NCAMES Secretary/Treasurer  
[gail.boggs@faypwc.com](mailto:gail.boggs@faypwc.com)

Please also ensure that the supervisor checklist located at the end of the packet is completed, signed, and returned with the required documentation.

This year's conference will feature two educational tracks: a Lineman (Field) Track and a Technical (Engineering) Track. Presentations will be delivered by industry experts and will provide valuable insight into current trends, best practices, and emerging issues within the industry.

Planned topics and speakers include:

- Updates to the 17th Edition of the APPA Safety Manual
- North Carolina Highway Patrol
- Linemen Roundtable (experience sharing and discussion)
- Substation Security
- Additional industry-related topics

We look forward to your participation and appreciate your continued support of the NCAMES Lineman's Rodeo and Conference.

Conference registration is coordinated by Gail Boggs, Secretary/Treasurer for NCAMES. All questions related to conference registration should be directed to Ms. Boggs at (910) 223-4516 or via email at [gail.boggs@faypwc.com](mailto:gail.boggs@faypwc.com).

Information regarding rodeo events, including access to downloadable packets, is available on the NCAMES website at <http://www.ncames.com>.

All questions related to rodeo events will be addressed by the NCAMES Safety & Training Committee and posted on the NCAMES Facebook page. Please note that access to this page requires online registration and approval, as it is a closed group. Membership is granted upon verification through industry-related questions. This process has been implemented to enhance security and protect participant privacy.

Awards for the 2026 Lineman's Rodeo will be presented as follows:

- Overall, first through fifth place Apprentice and Journeyman winners will be recognized with post-style trophies.
- First through third place Apprentice and Journeyman event winners will receive post-style trophies.

Event winners will be determined based on the lowest overall score, with the fastest completion time serving as the tiebreaker when applicable.

## **NCAMES 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LINEMAN'S RODEO**

The NCAMES 27th Annual Lineman's Rodeo will be held in Dallas, North Carolina, at Dallas Park, located at 1303 Dallas Cherryville Highway, Dallas, North Carolina 28034.

The awards presentation will take place later that evening at the Hickory Metro Convention Center & Visitors Bureau during the NCAMES Social and Annual Meeting located at 1960 13<sup>th</sup> Ave Dr SE #5186, Hickory, North Carolina 28602.

**Please complete the attached checklist and ensure it is signed and dated by the participant's supervisor.**  
**The completed checklist must be submitted along with all required forms.**

**\*\* All rodeo events will be judged as energized and performed under real working conditions. \*\***

**\*\* All events will be evaluated in accordance with the APPA Safety Manual, 17<sup>th</sup> Edition. \*\***

The following forms and guidelines are included with this packet:

1. General Rules
2. Notice of Change
3. Infraction Definitions
4. General Infractions
5. Scoring System
6. Apprentice Events:
  - Written Test
  - Transformer Load Switching
  - Lighting Arrestor Change Out
  - Hurtman Rescue
7. Journeyman Events:
  - Hurtman Rescue
  - Single-Phase Cutout Changeout (12 kv)
  - Double Pin Insulator Change Out
  - Insert Replacement, Elbow Inspection
8. Competitor Entry Form
9. Waiver of Liability Form

## **General Rules**

1. All safety rules shall be strictly observed during all rodeo events. All events will be judged in accordance with the APPA Safety Manual, 17th Edition.
2. Competitors must participate in all events within their designated classification (e.g., Journeyman, Apprentice). Failure to compete in all required events will result in disqualification from the rodeo competition.
3. Only one groundmen is permitted per Journeyman Lineman.
4. All rodeo events will be judged as energized and conducted under real working conditions.
5. Each competitor is responsible for providing their own equipment unless otherwise specified for a particular event. All tools must be clearly marked with the competitor's name for identification. At a minimum, competitors must provide the following equipment:
  - Climbers
  - Belt
  - Safety strap
  - Hard hat
  - 100% fall arrest system (required; competitors without fall arrest may sign one out from NCAMES/ElectriCities)
  - Approved safety glasses with side shields
  - 100% cotton or flame-retardant long-sleeved shirt
  - Hand tools
  - Leather gloves with a minimum two-inch cuff
  - Knife (razor knives are not permitted)
  - 20 kV rubber gloves with protectors
  - Hot sticks, hand line, and related equipment
6. A Journeyman Lineman is defined as an individual classified as a Journeyman Lineman, Line Technician, Crew Foreman, or equivalent, employed by an NCAMES member city within the State of North Carolina. The Journeyman Lineman must be a permanent, full-time employee of the city represented.
7. An Apprentice Lineman is defined as an individual with four (4) years or less of line work experience. An apprentice with more than four years of experience is not eligible to compete in Apprentice events and must compete in Journeyman events. Apprentice competitors must be permanent, full-time employees of an NCAMES member city within the State of North Carolina.
8. Aerial buckets are not permitted for use in any rodeo events.
9. Each competitor must sign a liability release form prior to participating in any rodeo events.

10. Contestants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
  - Safety procedures
  - Work practices
  - Equipment handling
  - Timely completion of the event
11. Judges for the NCAMES Rodeo will consist of members of the NCAMES Safety and Training Committee, operating utility supervisors, and past rodeo participants. Judges from all participating utilities are welcomed and encouraged. Judges may not evaluate competitors from their own utility.
12. Any competitor found to be in violation of the following will be immediately disqualified:
  - Arguing with a judge or displaying improper or discourteous conduct toward a judge or fellow competitor
  - Failure to compete in all required events
  - Use of altered or modified tools
13. Each competitor must furnish all required tools and safety equipment, including but not limited to: climbers, belt, safety strap, approved city-issued hard hat, 100% fall arrest system (required; may be borrowed from ElectriCities/NCAMES if unavailable), safety glasses with side shields, 100% cotton or flame-retardant long-sleeved shirt, hand tools, knife, hotline tools and cover, 20 kV rubber gloves with protectors, and leather work gloves. All tools must be clearly marked for identification. Competitors are solely responsible for their tools. All tools will be inspected prior to use, and all climbing gear must comply with current ANSI and OSHA standards.
14. ElectriCities/NCAMES will provide hand lines for the Hurtman Rescue event. All other tools are the responsibility of the competitor unless otherwise specified.
15. Homemade, modified, or altered tools are strictly prohibited.
16. Competitors may ask questions of the event judge prior to the start of the event but not during the event. It is the competitor's responsibility to seek clarification. A maximum of five (5) minutes is allowed for questions and tool layout.
17. Video recordings will not be permitted to resolve judging disputes.
18. The decision of the Chief Judge is final. Competitors may contest a scoring deduction with the Event Judge. If unresolved, the dispute may be referred to the Chief Judge, provided the request is made before the competitor leaves the event area. All disputes must be resolved before departure from the event. The Chairman of the NCAMES Safety and Training Committee will serve as the Chief Judge. Any dispute not overturned by the Chief Judge will result in a ten (10) point penalty.
19. Velcro straps are permitted on climber pads only if used as manufactured. Modifications, including shortening the Velcro, are not allowed.
20. Only approved safety glasses or approved prescription safety glasses bearing the ANSI Z87.1 stamp on the frame will be accepted.

21. Battery-powered, hydraulic, and power tools are not permitted.
22. Competitors are permitted to use hard line cover.
23. All competitors must utilize full fall arrest protection while climbing during the rodeo competition.
24. The minimum manufactured blanket size permitted is 22 inches by 22 inches.

### **Notice of Change**

There will be no in-person Question-and-Answer session at the NCAMES Rodeo this year. All questions must be submitted through the NCAMES online Q&A Forum. Responses will be provided online through two (2) weeks prior to the rodeo.

The NCAMES Rodeo will be held on May 21, 2026. Accordingly, the final day to submit questions via the online forum is May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Additionally, all competitors are required to attend the scheduled classes and breakout sessions on Wednesday. Attendance will be documented via a sign-in sheet, which will be provided to the Directors and Managers of each participating city or town.

### **Infraction Definitions**

The following are definitions for the infractions listed on the score sheets. These are the most common infractions.

### **General Infractions**

#### **2-Point Infractions**

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

**PPE MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILE INSIDE THE RODEO EVENT AREA.**

Required PPE includes:

- Hard hat
- Approved safety glasses
- Leather work gloves
- Work boots

Failure to comply with PPE requirements will result in a two (2) point deduction.

Failure to properly cover neutral, secondary, or primary conductors:

- All potentially energized conductors must be fully covered with approved protective cover when they are within reach, fall, or slip distance of an energized conductor.

Safety strap and fall arrest violations:

- The safety strap must remain under control at all times. While climbing, both snaps of the safety strap must be secured to a D-ring. The safety strap may be carried over the shoulder; however, both snaps must remain attached to a D-ring. If the safety strap slides off the shoulder, a deduction will be assessed. After utilizing secondary fall arrest to cross an obstacle, the primary fall arrest must be reattached to the pole before continuing to climb.

Improper hand line operation:

- Hand line ropes must not be twisted while raising or lowering tools or materials. All tools and materials must be raised and lowered using the hand line. The hand line may be hung above the neutral prior to cover-up only when no secondary conductors must be reached over, and the uncovered neutral is not contacted by any part of the hand line or by an ungloved hand.

Dropping tools or materials from the pole:

- Tools or materials shall not be dropped from the pole at any time.

Misuse of tools or use of incorrect tools:

- Tools must be used only for their intended purpose and must not be modified or altered from the manufacturer's specifications.

Extended body contact with a covered neutral:

- Body contact with a covered neutral shall be limited to incidental or brush contact only.

Failure to maintain proper clearance from energized conductors or parts:

- Journeyman competitors must maintain proper clearance from exposed energized primary conductors or components with all parts of the body except rubber-gloved hands. This includes any uninsulated tools in contact with energized primary conductors.
- Proper clearance is defined as avoiding being within reach or fall distance of exposed energized conductors.

Cutout or slip on the pole:

- A cutout or slip is defined as one or more gaffs coming out of the pole and sliding out of control on the pole surface.

Improper hard hat use:

- Failure to wear the hard hat properly at all times, including wearing it backwards, is prohibited.

Improper long-sleeve shirt wear:

- Long-sleeve shirts must be worn with sleeves down at all times. Sleeves may not be rolled or pushed up. If the shirt has sleeve buttons, they must be buttoned.

Dropping or losing a hard hat:

- Hard hats must remain properly worn at all times while inside the event area.

Improper hanging of tools or materials:

- Tools or materials may only be hung on a hand line or approved devices. Hanging tools or materials on a structure, conductor, or safety strap is prohibited.

## 10-Point Infractions

Contact with an energized conductor:

- Any contact with an uncovered primary or neutral conductor using any part of the body other than rubber-gloved hands.

Losing control or dropping a conductor:

- Loss of control is defined as the inability to maintain the conductor in position without contacting the pole, other conductors, or dropping it completely.

Walking in climbers:

- Competitors shall not walk while wearing climbers.

Failure to use gaff guards:

- Gaff guards shall be properly installed on climbers while inside the rodeo event area.

Improper use of fall arrest:

- Any misuse or failure to correctly utilize fall arrest equipment during climbing or other tasks.

Disputes escalated to the Chief Judge:

- Any dispute submitted to the Chief Judge that is not overturned will result in a 10-point penalty.



## **Scoring System**

The NCAMES Rodeo will utilize a low-point scoring system. Competitors are assigned points corresponding to their placement in each event. The competitor with the lowest total points across all events will be declared the winner.

### **Scoring Method**

Points are assigned based on the competitor's finishing position in each event.

- 1st place = 1 point
- 2nd place = 2 points
- 3rd place = 3 points, and so on

The total points for each competitor are calculated by summing their points from all events.

### **Example:**

Competitor 1:

- Event 1: 5th place → 5 points
- Event 2: 8th place → 8 points
- Event 3: 1st place → 1 point
- Event 4: 4th place → 4 points
- Event 5: 6th place → 6 points

Total Points: 24

Competitor 2:

- Event 1: 1st place → 1 point
- Event 2: 1st place → 1 point
- Event 3: 2nd place → 2 points
- Event 4: 3rd place → 3 points
- Event 5: 15th place → 15 points

Total Points: 22

In this example, Competitor 2 would finish higher than Competitor 1 due to having the lower total point score.

## APPRENTICE EVENT WRITTEN TEST

Head Judge: Michael "Kool-Aid" Caswell (City of New Bern)

MEAN TIME: 25 MINUTES  
MAXIMUM TIME (DROP DEAD): 30 MINUTES

1. Carefully review the **General Rules** in the packet prior to the test.
2. The test will begin promptly at **3:30pm on Wednesday, May 20th**. Late competitors will be **disqualified**.
3. This year's test is **OPEN** book. The **ONLY** book allowed is the **APPA Safety Manual, 17<sup>th</sup> Edition**.
4. The test consists of 25 multiple-choice questions
5. The questions are derived exclusively from the APPA Safety Manual, 17<sup>th</sup> Edition.
6. The questions will be multiple choice.
7. All competitors will take the test the day before the Rodeo begins in a designated area.
8. Each incorrect answer will result in a **4-point deduction**.
9. **TIME STARTS** at Judge's signal.
10. **TIME STOPS** when competitor lays down their pencil(s) and states "**TIME**".
11. Time in this event will be used in the case of a **tiebreaker only**. Time will "**NOT**" be calculated into the overall time of the other Rodeo events.
12. **NO** supplemental materials are permitted, including study guides, online resources, or electronic devices (e.g., cell phones). **Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification from the Rodeo.**

### Important Notes:

- The Apprentice Level Test is based exclusively on the APPA Safety Manual, 17<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- Test scores will be released at the conclusion of the NCAMES Rodeo.
- #2 pencils will be provided.

**Apprentice Event**  
**TRANSFORMER LOAD SWITCHING**  
**Head Judge: Steve McBride (City of Rocky Mount)**

**MEAN TIME: 15 MINUTES - MAXIMUM TIME (DROP DEAD): 20 MINUTES**

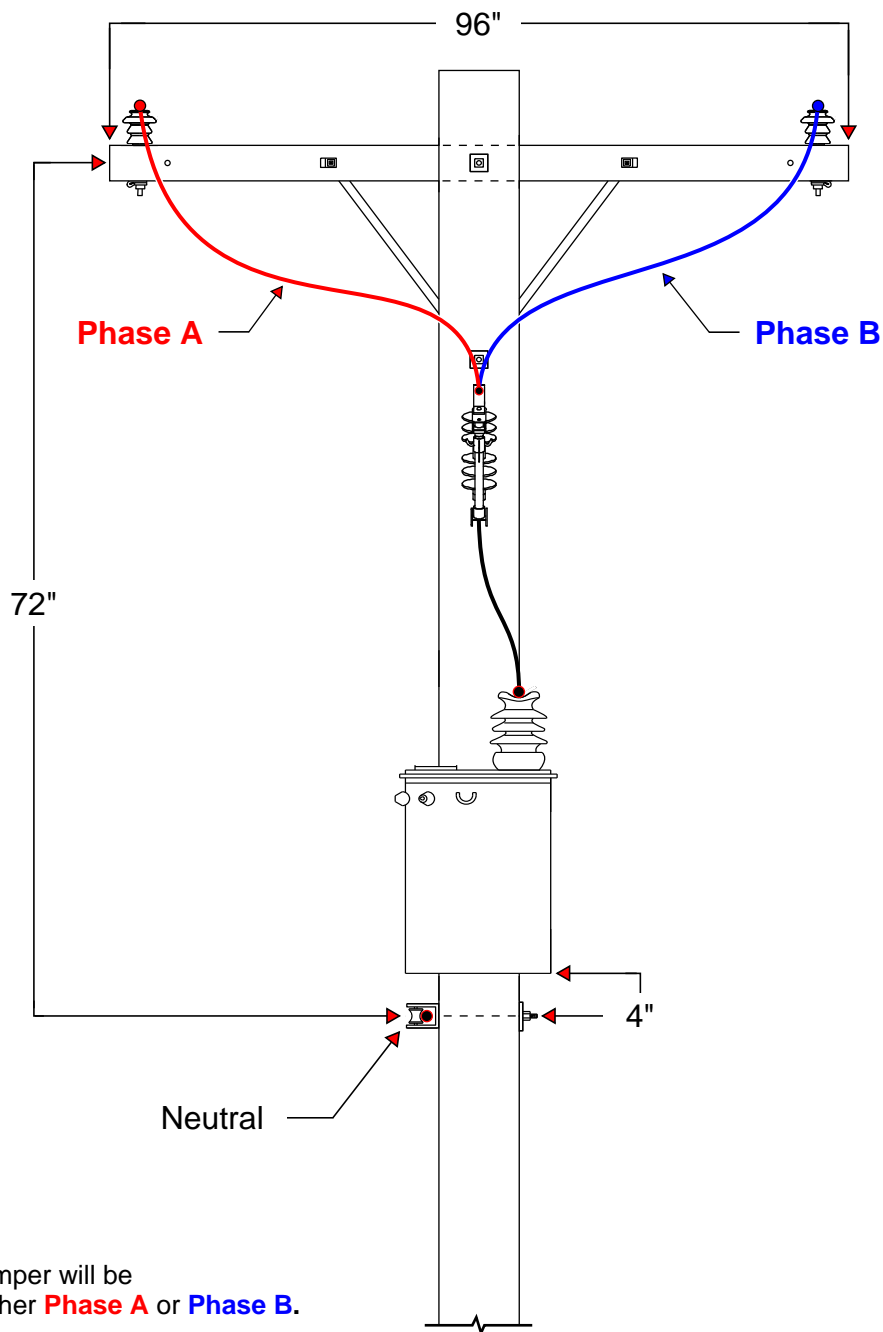
**Event Objective:**

This event simulates the transfer of a transformer high-side jumper from one outside phase to the opposite outside phase. Prior to performing the transfer, the competitor must remove the load from the 120/240-volt conventional transformer by opening the fused cutout using a telescopic hot stick (extendo stick). Once the fuse has been opened, the competitor shall ascend the pole and transfer the high-side jumper accordingly. After completing the transfer, the competitor must descend the pole and re-energize the transformer using the telescopic hot stick. The line shall be considered energized at 12 kV, and all APPA minimum approach distances must be strictly maintained throughout the event.

**Event Requirements and Rules:**

1. Carefully review the **General Rules** in the packet prior to this event.
2. Each competitor will be allowed a five (5) minute setup period before the event begins to ask questions and organize tools.
3. **TIME STARTS** at the judge's signal.
4. **TIME STOPS** once the transformer has been re-energized, the telescopic hot stick (extendo stick) is fully retracted, and the stick has been placed on the tarp.
5. Competitors are required to wear rubber gloves from ground to ground throughout the event.
6. Leather gloves are permitted during the telescopic hot stick (extendo stick) portion of the event, except during inclement weather conditions.
7. Competitors must supply their own telescopic hot stick (extendo stick). When not in use, the stick must be placed on a tarp.
8. An eight-foot shotgun stick will be provided and placed in a grunt bag hanging on the pole.
9. Competitors must always maintain proper minimum clearance from all bare energized conductors.
10. The jumper will be connected using a hot-line clamp directly to the stirrup installed on the primary conductor. Stirrups will be pre-installed on both sides of the line.
11. The competitor must make at least one adjustment to their fall-arrest system to ensure safe and compliant positioning.

# FRONT VIEW



## NOTE:

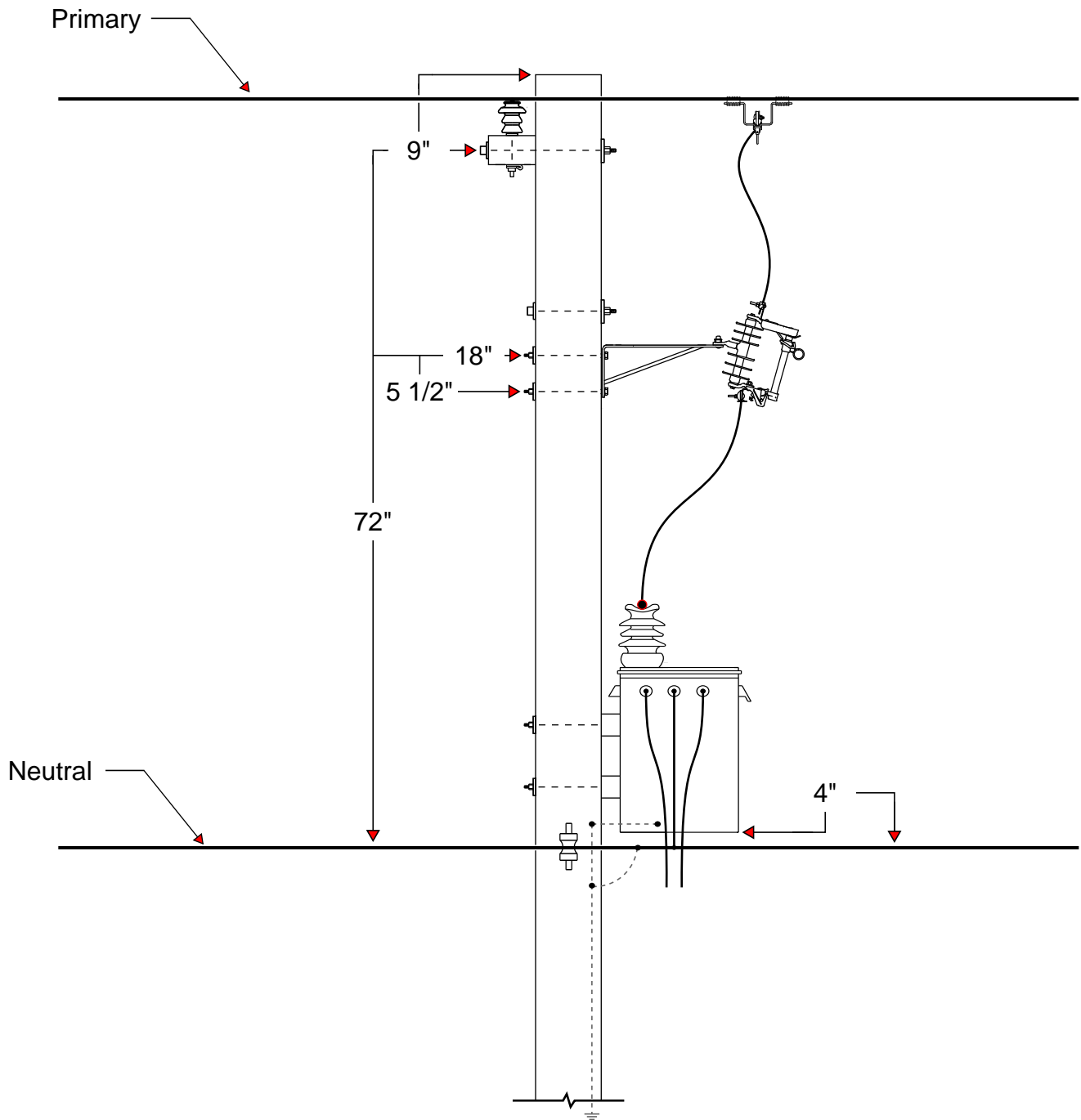
- (1) The high-side jumper will be installed on either **Phase A** or **Phase B**.
- (2) If the jumper is installed on **Phase A**, the competitor shall relocate it to **Phase B**.
- (3) If the jumper is installed on **Phase B**, the competitor shall relocate it to **Phase A**.

Apprentice Event  
Transformer Load Switching

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DAT	1		
CKD	2		
DAT	3		
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# SIDE VIEW



Apprentice Event  
Transformer Load Switching

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DAT	1		
CKD	2		
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APP	3		
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## Apprentice Event – Transformer Load Switching Judging Guidelines

Head Judge: Steve McBride (City of Rocky Mount)

Competitor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Competitor's City: \_\_\_\_\_

### Infractions That Cause a 2-Point Deduction

- Failure to wear rubber gloves from ground-to-ground \_\_\_\_\_
- Climbing with safety/transition strap in hand or dragging free \_\_\_\_\_
- Dropping tools or materials from pole \_\_\_\_\_
- Misuse of tools or use of the wrong tools \_\_\_\_\_
- Extended body contacting with the neutral \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to perform hot stick work while belted off below the neutral \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to maintain proper clearance from energized conductors or parts \_\_\_\_\_
- Cut-out of the pole (uncontrolled slip-fall arrest catches competitor) \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear a hard hat properly at all times (not backwards) \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear long sleeved shirt; sleeves rolled down and buttoned \_\_\_\_\_
- Dropping or losing hard hat \_\_\_\_\_
- Hanging tools or materials on structure, conductors, or safety strap \_\_\_\_\_
- Not placing shotgun stick back into the grunt bag when finished \_\_\_\_\_
- Improper use of telescopic hot stick (extendo stick) (i.e. not placing on the tarp) \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to make an adjustment on fall arrest \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding mean time for the event – 15 minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Infractions That Cause a 10-Point Deduction

- Fall from pole resulting in competitor hitting the ground \_\_\_\_\_
- Accidental brush contact with bare phase or neutral \_\_\_\_\_
- Improper energizing and de-energizing sequence \_\_\_\_\_
- Improper use of fall arrest \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear approved safety glasses with side shields \_\_\_\_\_
- Arguing with judges or bad conduct \_\_\_\_\_
- Dispute with Chief Judge that is not overturned \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding maximum time (drop dead) of 20 minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**After 25 minutes, competitors will be disqualified, and no time will be allowed for the event**

**Total Deductions:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time: Min:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sec:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Score: 100 – (total deductions) \_\_\_\_\_ = Total Score** \_\_\_\_\_

**Judge's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Apprentice Event**  
**Lighting Arrestor Change Out**  
**Head Judge: Josh Sigmon (City of Statesville)**

**MEAN TIME: 8 MINUTES - MAXIMUM TIME (DROP DEAD): 12 MINUTES**

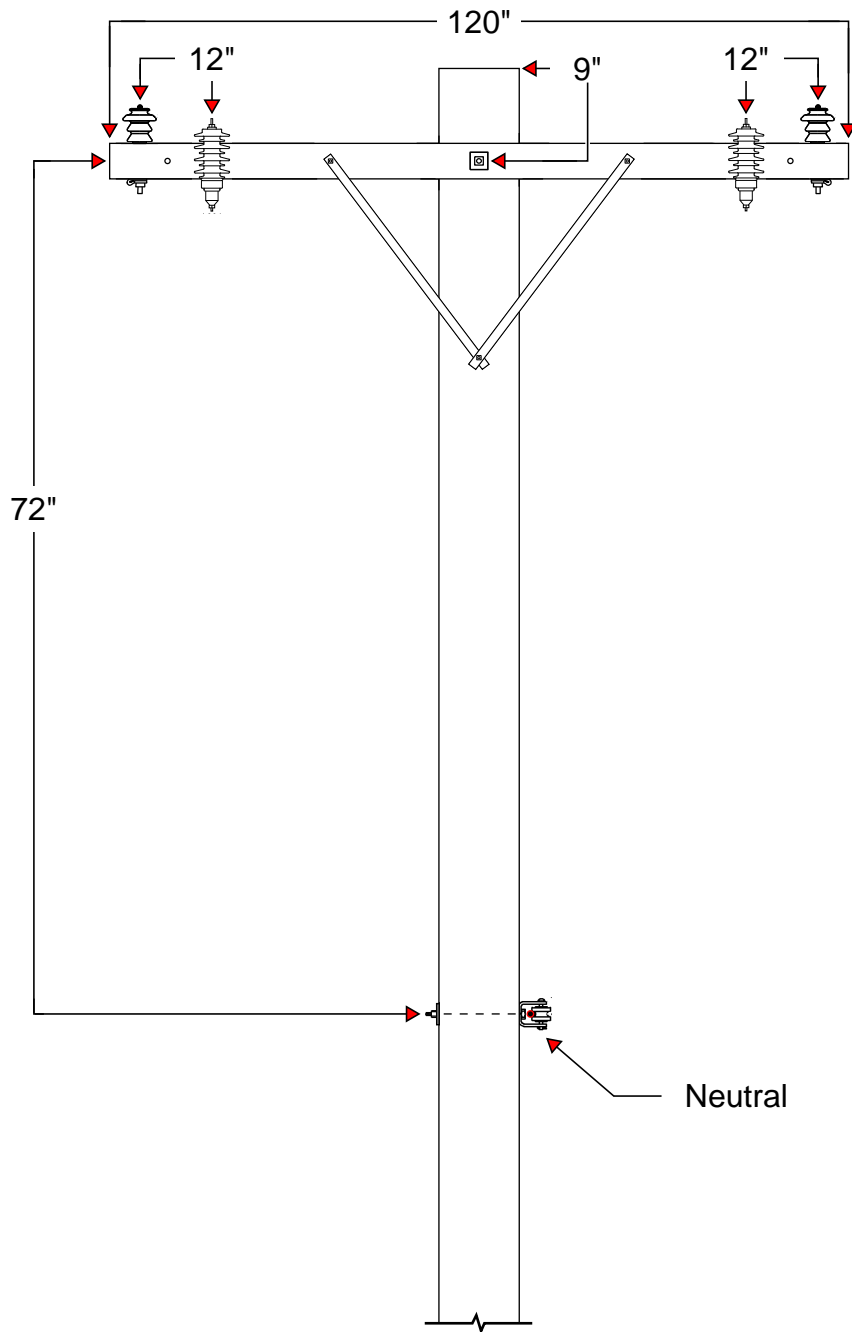
**Event Objective:**

This event simulates the replacement of two lightning arrestors located on the outside phases of a two-phase, single-line pole constructed with #2 ACSR conductors. The arrestors will be mounted on a 10-foot wooden crossarm installed on a 40-foot pole. The line shall be considered de-energized and properly grounded for the duration of the event.

**Event Requirements and Rules:**

1. Carefully review the **General Rules** in the packet prior to this event.
2. Each competitor will be allowed a five (5) minute setup period before the event begins to ask questions and organize tools.
3. Each competitor is responsible for providing their own hand line for this event.
4. **TIME STARTS** at the judge's signal.
5. **TIME STOPS** once Both feet are on the ground.
6. Fall-arrest devices may be installed on the pole prior to the start of the event, and competitors may be equipped with their tools at that time.
7. Leather gloves are required for the duration of this event.
8. A hot stick is not required for installing or removing the hotline clamps.
9. The competitor shall replace both 4 kV lightning arrestors.
10. Two lightning arrestors will be provided at each event station for replacement.
11. Stinger wire and grounds shall be #4 stranded insulated copper. Wildlife guards must be removed from the existing arrestors and installed on the replacement arrestors.
12. All connections shall be brushed (simulated).
13. All materials shall be transported aloft by the competitor using a grunt bucket. No ground personnel will be provided for this event.
14. Lighting arrestors shall be connected using hotline clamps directly to the primary conductor between the designated tape marks.
15. All nuts and washers must be properly reinstalled on both arrestors.
16. The competitor must make at least one adjustment to their fall-arrest system to ensure safe and compliant positioning.

# FRONT VIEW



Apprentice Event  
Lighting Arrester Change Out

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**Apprentice Event – Lighting Arrestor Change Out Judging Guidelines**  
**Head Judge: Josh Sigmon (City of Statesville)**

Competitor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Competitor's City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Infractions That Cause a 2-Point Deduction**

- Climbing with safety/transition strap in hand or dragging free \_\_\_\_\_
- Dropping tools or materials from pole \_\_\_\_\_
- Misuse of tools or use of the wrong tools \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to perform hot stick work while belted off below the neutral \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to brush connections (simulated) \_\_\_\_\_
- Cut-out of the pole (uncontrolled slip-fall arrest catches competitor) \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear a hard hat properly at all times (not backwards) \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear long sleeved shirt; sleeves rolled down and buttoned \_\_\_\_\_
- Dropping or losing hard hat \_\_\_\_\_
- Hanging tools or materials on structure, conductors, or safety strap \_\_\_\_\_
- Hand line operation while on competitor's belt \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to make an adjustment on fall arrest \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding mean time for the event – 8 minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Infractions That Cause a 10-Point Deduction**

- Fall from pole resulting in competitor hitting the ground \_\_\_\_\_
- Improper energizing and de-energizing sequence \_\_\_\_\_
- Improper use of fall arrest \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear approved safety glasses with side shields \_\_\_\_\_
- Arguing with judges or bad conduct \_\_\_\_\_
- Dispute with Chief Judge that is not overturned \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding maximum time (drop dead) of 12 minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**After 15 minutes, competitors will be disqualified, and no time will be allowed for the event**

**Total Deductions:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time: Min:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sec:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Score: 100 – (total deductions) \_\_\_\_\_ = Total Score \_\_\_\_\_**

**Judge's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Journeyman/Apprentice Event**  
**HURTMAN RESCUE**  
**Simulated HOT on a 40-foot pole**  
**Head Judge: Brian Small (City of New Bern)**

**MEAN TIME: 4 MINUTES – MAXIMUM TIME (DROP DEAD): 6 MINUTES**

**Event Objective:**

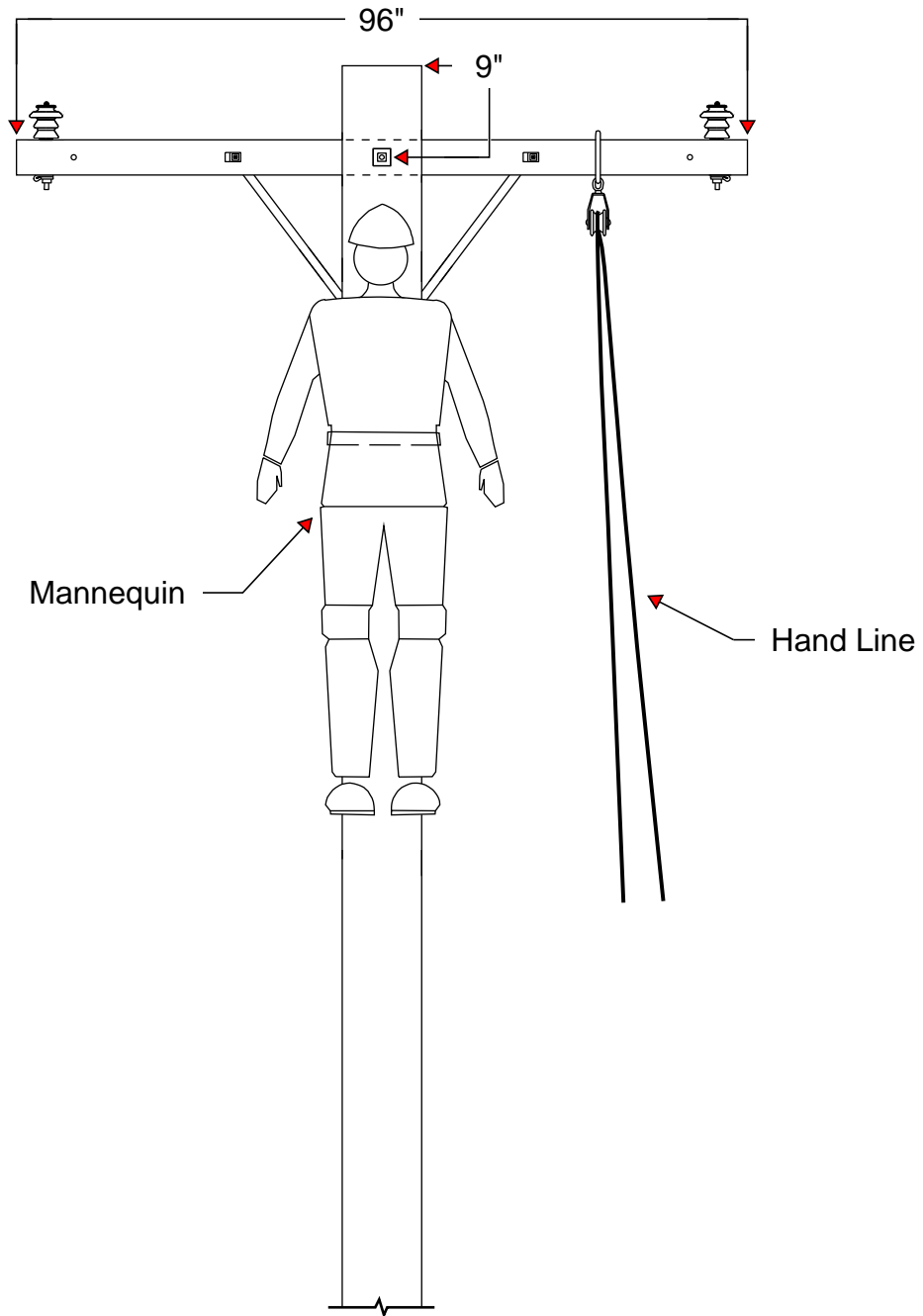
This event is designed to simulate the rescue of a lineman who has sustained an injury while working on a pole with live electrical wires or equipment. Competitors are required to adhere to all applicable safety regulations and established industry standards throughout the rescue operation. Insulating rubber gloves must be worn from ground to ground during the exercise.

**Event Requirements and Rules:**

1. Carefully review the **General Rules** in the packet prior to this event.
2. **TIME STARTS** at the judge's signal, with the competitor positioned an arm's length from the pole. The lineman's belt and hooks will be placed on the ground beside the competitor. Rubber gloves will be stored in the glove bag, cuffs down, alongside the tools on the ground. Competitors are required to wear rubber gloves from ground to ground throughout the exercise.
3. **TIME STOPS** when the mannequin is safely on the ground, the rope is slack, and the competitor has both feet securely on the ground.
4. When facing the pole from the cross-arm side, the hand line shall be positioned on the right side. The injured lineman (mannequin) shall be secured at the center of the pole on the cross-arm side, 6 inches below the braces. A **minimum** of one complete wrap of the hand line around the cross-arm is required prior to lowering the victim.
5. The mannequin shall be tied beneath the arms using three half hitches. Eye splice shall **NOT** be used as part of the hitches. The half hitch is the only acceptable knot for this procedure.
6. The sheave shall be dropped in the circle at the base of the pole. The competitor must audibly call "**HEADACHE**" when the sheave is released.
7. A Buck Squeeze trainer will be used on the mannequin. The competitor is required to cut the Buck Squeeze insert. Cutting the belt incorrectly will result in a 10-point deduction.
8. The mannequin shall be lowered to the ground in a controlled manner, without contacting the pole. The mannequin must not strike the ground with excessive force.
9. Competitors may continue to incur point deductions until all climbing gear has been removed and the event judge officially declares the event concluded.
10. Hand lines will be provided by NCAMES. Competitors are required to use only the hand lines supplied.
11. Exceeding the mean completion time of 4 minutes will result in a two-point deduction.

12. Judges will assess the rope knot by placing a 4-inch PVC conduit between the mannequin and the rope.  
A properly tied knot shall make contact with the PVC conduct while resting on the mannequin's chest.
13. The mannequin's feet must remain within the designated area when lowered to the ground.
14. Gaff guards must be on climbers when transporting hooks to and from the pole.
15. The blade of the competitor's knife shall remain sheathed and not exposed while climbing.
16. Competitors must avoid contact with the insulator at all times.
17. The competitor must make at least one adjustment to their fall-arrest system to ensure safe and compliant positioning.

# FRONT VIEW



Journeyman & Apprentice Event  
Hurtman Rescue

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**Journeyman/Apprentice Event - Hurtman Rescue Judging Guidelines**  
**Head Judge: Brian Small (City of New Bern)**

Competitor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Competitor's City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Infractions That Cause a 2-Point Deduction**

- Failure to wear rubber gloves from ground-to-ground \_\_\_\_\_
- Dropping tools or materials from the pole (each occurrence) \_\_\_\_\_
- Cutout or failure to maintain control \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear hardhat properly at all times (not backward) \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear long sleeve shirt; sleeves rolled down and buttoned \_\_\_\_\_
- Dropping or losing hardhat \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to control descent of mannequin \_\_\_\_\_
- Allowing the mannequin to contact the pole during descent \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to use one complete loop around crossarm \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to use three half hitches when tying rope around mannequin's chest \_\_\_\_\_
- Eye splice should not be used as part of the half hitches \_\_\_\_\_
- Safety strap falling off of shoulder \_\_\_\_\_
- Mannequin not lowered in designated area \_\_\_\_\_
- Twisted hand line operation \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to call "HEADACHE" when dropping sheave \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to drop sheave in wood chips \_\_\_\_\_
- Rubber gloves not in glove bag when not in use \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding mean time for the event – 4 minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Infractions That Cause a 10-Point Deduction**

- Hot-dogging/free falling or in Judges Opinion, competitor used excess speed ascending or descending pole (one gaff must be in the pole at all times) \_\_\_\_\_
- Improper use of fall arrest \_\_\_\_\_
- Rope making contact with insulator \_\_\_\_\_
- Cutting belt in wrong place \_\_\_\_\_
- Mannequin hitting ground too hard \_\_\_\_\_
- Walking in climbers \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear approved safety glasses with side shields \_\_\_\_\_
- Arguing with judges/improper conduct. Dispute with Chief Judge that is not overturned \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding maximum time (drop dead) of 6 minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**After 8 minutes, competitors will be disqualified, and no time will be allowed for the event**

**Total Deductions:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time: Min:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sec:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Score: 100 – (total deductions) \_\_\_\_\_ = Total Score \_\_\_\_\_**

**Judge's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Journeyman Event**  
**Single-Phase Cutout Changeout (12 kv)**  
**Head Judge: Jon Rose (City of Apex)**

**MEAN TIME: 12 MINUTES - MAXIMUM TIME (DROP DEAD): 15 MINUTES**

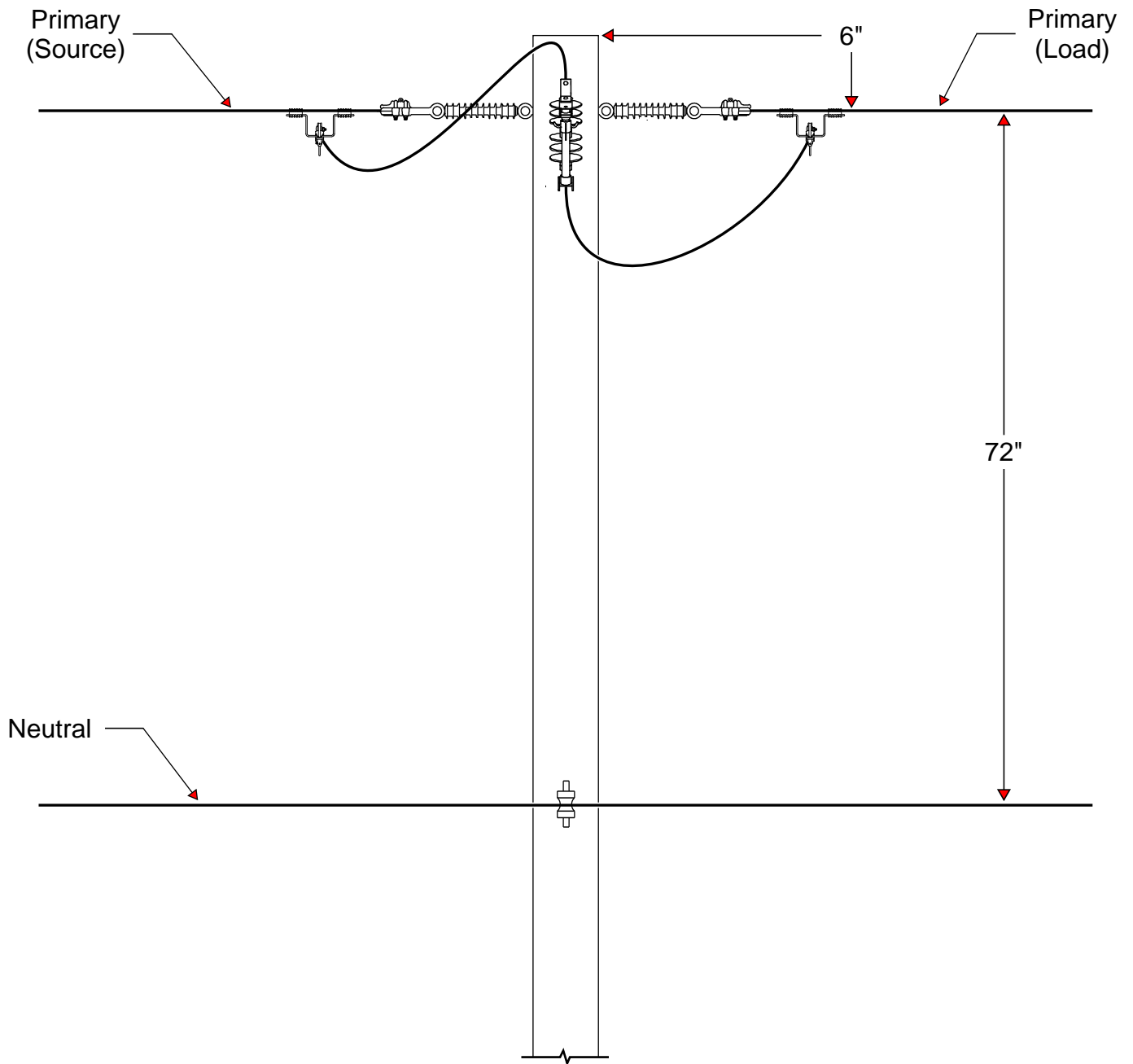
**Event Objective:**

This event consists of replacing a 100-amp fused cutout mounted on an 18-inch bracket on a single-phase primary conductor (#2 ACSR) and neutral conductor (#2 ACSR). Electrical continuity must be maintained at all times throughout the event. The neutral conductor and clevis shall be properly covered. Jumpers for the cutout shall be constructed of #2 insulated copper and connected to the primary using approved hot-line clamps. The competitor will be judged until the event site has been restored to its original condition. Rubber gloves are required from ground to ground for the duration of the event.

**Event Requirements and Rules:**

1. Carefully review the **General Rules** in the packet prior to this event.
2. Each competitor will be allowed a five (5) minute setup period before the event begins to ask questions and organize tools.
3. **TIME STARTS** at the judge's signal.
4. **TIME STOPS** once Both feet are on the ground.
5. Competitors are required to wear rubber gloves from ground to ground throughout the event.
6. All required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn and used properly at all times.
7. The primary and neutral conductors will be #2 ACSR.
8. Proper cover-up of all conductors is required.
9. Electrical continuity must be maintained at all times.
10. Mechanical jumpers must be double covered.
11. All conductors must be brushed (simulated).
12. Competitors must maintain proper clearance from exposed energized primary conductors or components with all parts of the body except rubber-gloved hands. This includes any uninsulated tools in contact with energized primary conductors.
13. The competitor must make at least one adjustment to their fall-arrest system to ensure safe and compliant positioning.

# FRONT VIEW

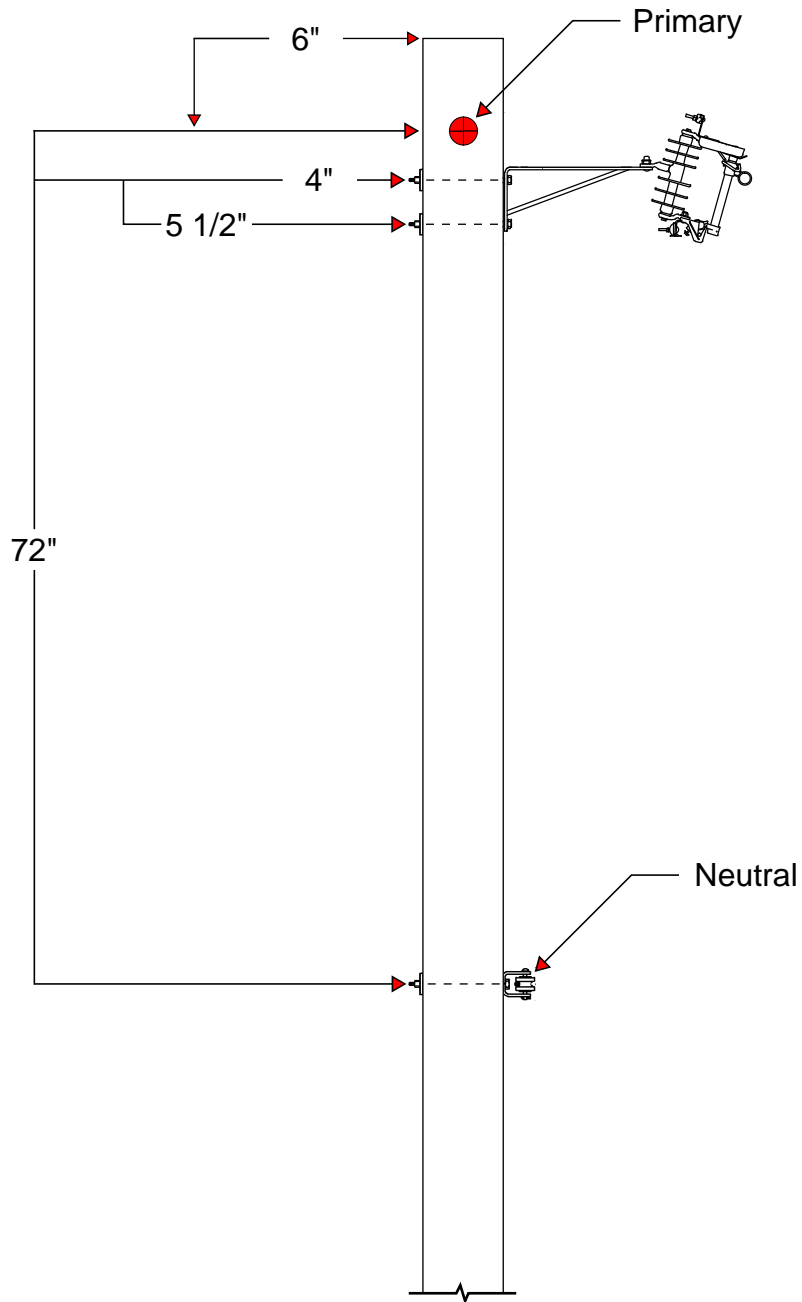


Journeyman Event  
Single-Phase Cutout Changeout

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# SIDE VIEW



Journeyman Event  
Single-Phase Cutout Changeout

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**Journeyman Event**  
**Single-Phase Cutout Changeout (12 kv) Judging Guidelines**

**Head Judge: Jon Rose (City of Apex)**

Competitor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Competitor's City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Infractions That Cause a 2-Point Deduction**

- Failure to wear rubber gloves from ground-to-ground \_\_\_\_\_
- Climbing with safety/transition strap in hand or dragging free \_\_\_\_\_
- Dropping tools or materials from pole \_\_\_\_\_
- Misuse of tools or use of the wrong tools \_\_\_\_\_
- Extended body contacting with the neutral \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to perform hot stick work while belted off below the neutral \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to maintain proper clearance from energized conductors or parts \_\_\_\_\_
- Cut-out of the pole (uncontrolled slip-fall arrest catches competitor) \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear a hard hat properly at all times (not backwards) \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear long sleeved shirt; sleeves rolled down and buttoned \_\_\_\_\_
- Dropping or losing hard hat \_\_\_\_\_
- Hanging tools or materials on structure, conductors, or safety strap \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to make an adjustment on fall arrest \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding mean time for the event – 12 minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Infractions That Cause a 10-Point Deduction**

- Fall from pole resulting in competitor hitting the ground \_\_\_\_\_
- Accidental brush contact with bare phase or neutral \_\_\_\_\_
- Improper energizing and de-energizing sequence \_\_\_\_\_
- Improper use of fall arrest \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear approved safety glasses with side shields \_\_\_\_\_
- Arguing with judges or bad conduct \_\_\_\_\_
- Dispute with Chief Judge that is not overturned \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding maximum time (drop dead) of 15 minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**After 20 minutes, competitors will be disqualified, and no time will be allowed for the event**

**Total Deductions:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time: Min:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sec:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Score: 100 – (total deductions) \_\_\_\_\_ = Total Score \_\_\_\_\_**

**Judge's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Journeyman Event**  
**Double Pin Insulator Change Out**  
**Head Judge: Casey Croyle (City of High Point)**

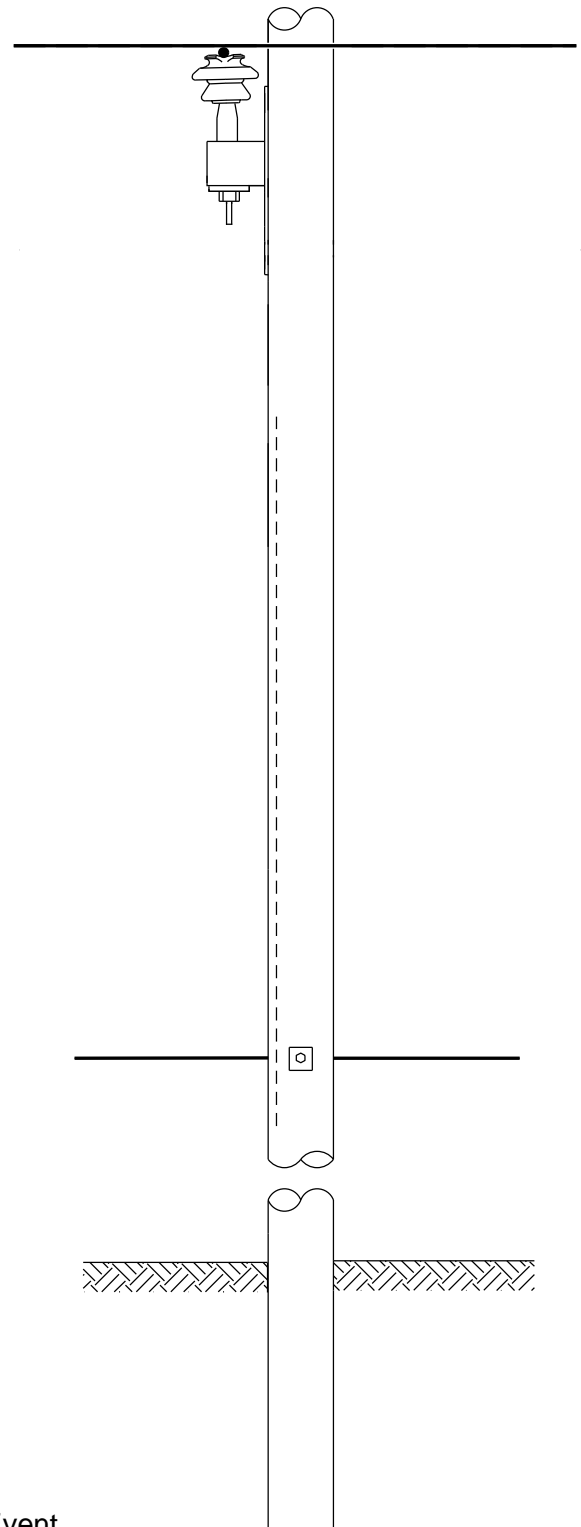
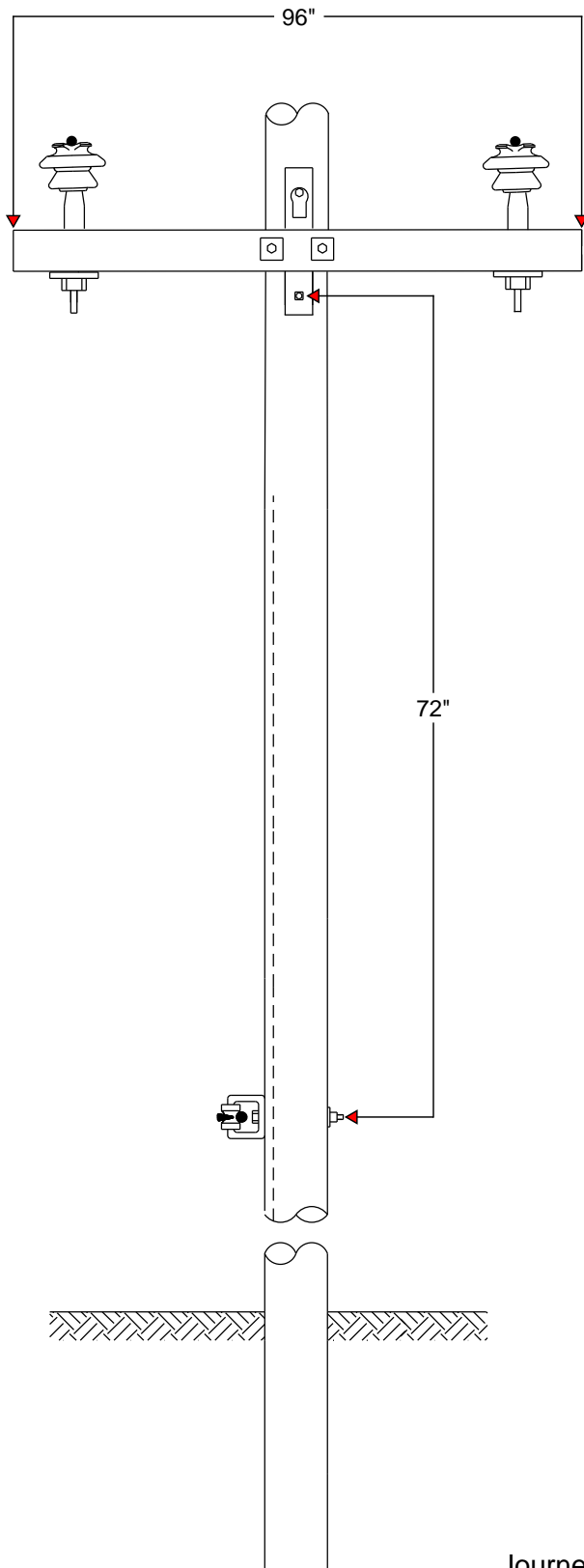
**MEAN TIME: 8 MINUTES - MAXIMUM TIME (DROP DEAD): 12 MINUTES**

**Event Objective:**

This event consists of climbing a 40-foot pole and replacing two (2) 15 kV pin insulators. The neutral conductor will be positioned 72 inches from the bottom bolt of the fiberglass arm. Conductors shall be secured using #2 preforms with grommets, and a new preform and grommet must be installed for each replacement insulator. The line shall be considered de-energized and properly grounded for the duration of the event.; therefore, rubber gloves are not required.

**Event Requirements and Rules:**

1. Carefully review the **General Rules** in the packet prior to this event.
2. Each competitor will be allowed a five (5) minute setup period before the event begins to ask questions and organize tools.
3. Each competitor is responsible for providing their own hand line for this event.
4. **TIME STARTS** at the judge's signal.
5. **TIME STOPS** once Both feet are on the ground.
6. Leather gloves must be worn for the entire duration of the event.
7. The competitor may begin the event with climbing gear on, and the fall-arrest system attached to the pole.
8. Upon reaching the top of the pole, the competitor must properly adjust the fall-arrest system to remain in safe compliance.
9. Old grommets may be dropped from the pole; however, the competitor must audibly call "**HEADACHE**" prior to doing so.
10. Two (2) 15 kV pin insulators along with the required #2 preforms and grommets, will be provided at each event station for replacement.
11. The competitor must make at least one adjustment to their fall-arrest system to ensure safe and compliant positioning.



Journeyman Event  
Double Pin Insulator Change Out

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**Journeyman Event**  
**Double Pin Insulator Change Out Judging Guidelines**

**Head Judge: Casey Croyle (City of High Point)**

Competitor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Competitor's City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Infractions That Cause a 2-Point Deduction**

- Climbing with safety/transition strap in hand or dragging free \_\_\_\_\_
- Dropping tools or materials from pole (each occurrence) \_\_\_\_\_
- Misuse of tools or use of the wrong tools \_\_\_\_\_
- Cut-out of the pole (uncontrolled slip-fall arrest catches competitor) \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear a hard hat properly at all times (not backwards) \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear long sleeved shirt; sleeves rolled down and buttoned \_\_\_\_\_
- Dropping or losing hard hat \_\_\_\_\_
- Hanging tools or materials on structure, conductors, or safety strap \_\_\_\_\_
- Hand line operation while on competitor's belt \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to call "HEADACHE" when dropping grommets \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to make an adjustment on fall arrest \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding mean time for the event – 8 minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Infractions That Cause a 10-Point Deduction**

- Fall from pole resulting in competitor hitting the ground \_\_\_\_\_
- Improper use of fall arrest \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear approved safety glasses with side shields \_\_\_\_\_
- Arguing with judges or bad conduct \_\_\_\_\_
- Dispute with Chief Judge that is not overturned \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding maximum time (drop dead) of 12 minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**After 15 minutes, competitors will be disqualified, and no time will be allowed for the event**

**Total Deductions:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time: Min:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sec:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Score: 100 – (total deductions) \_\_\_\_\_ = Total Score \_\_\_\_\_**

**Judge's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Journeyman Event**  
**Insert Replacement, Elbow Inspection**  
**Head Judge: Jeffery Williams (Greenville Utilities)**

**MEAN TIME: 10 MINUTES - MAXIMUM TIME (DROP DEAD): 15 MINUTES**

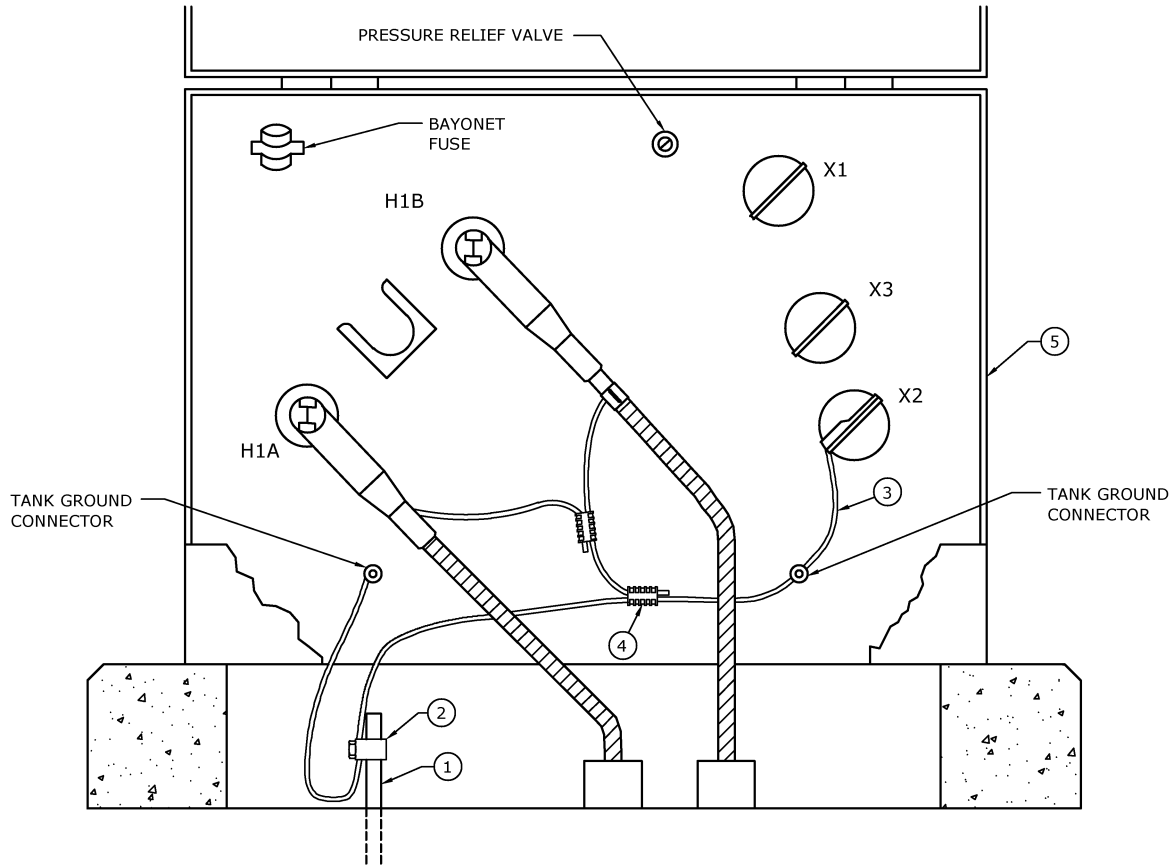
**Event Objective:**

This event consists of two (2) pad-mount transformers positioned 10 feet apart. Transformer #1 will be configured as a loop feed (Source In and Source Out). Transformer #2 will be configured as a radial feed with a primary dead-end. The competitor will test, isolate, and ground the **Source Out** primary cable in Transformer #1. The competitor will then replace the **Source In** primary insert bushing in Transformer #2 and perform a visual inspection of the elbow. All isolation, testing, and grounding procedures must be performed in accordance with the APPA Safety Manual, 17<sup>th</sup> Edition. The competitor shall use the provided torque tool to properly torque the new primary insert bushing. Upon completion of the work, all grounds shall be removed, and Transformer #2 shall be re-energized. Event time will stop when both transformers are closed and energized. Transformer #1 will be pre-equipped with a feed-thru bushing, dummy cap, and grounding elbow with the grounds pre-installed.

**Event Requirements and Rules:**

1. Carefully review the **General Rules** in the packet prior to this event.
2. Each competitor will be allowed a five (5) minute setup period before the event begins to ask questions and organize tools.
3. **TIME STARTS** at the judge's signal.
4. **TIME STOPS** when both transformers are closed.
5. Competitors are required to wear rubber gloves throughout the event.
6. All required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn and used properly for the duration of the event.
7. Proper isolating, testing, and grounding procedures must be followed at all times in accordance with the APPA Safety Manual (17th Edition).
8. The competitor must use the provided torque tool to torque the new insert bushing to the specified requirements.
9. A visual inspection of the elbow must be performed prior to re-energization.

# Single Phase Pad-Mounted Transformer Loop Feed



NO.	INVENTORY NO.	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
1	-	1	ROD, GROUND, 5/8" x 8', COPPER CLAD
2	-	1	CLAMP, GROUNDING ROD
3	-	-	JUMPERS, LEADS, AS REQ'D.
4	-	X	CONNECTOR, AS REQ'D
5	-	1	XFMR, PAD MOUNTED W/ 2 PRI. LOAD BREAK BUSHINGS & INT. FUSE

## NOTES:

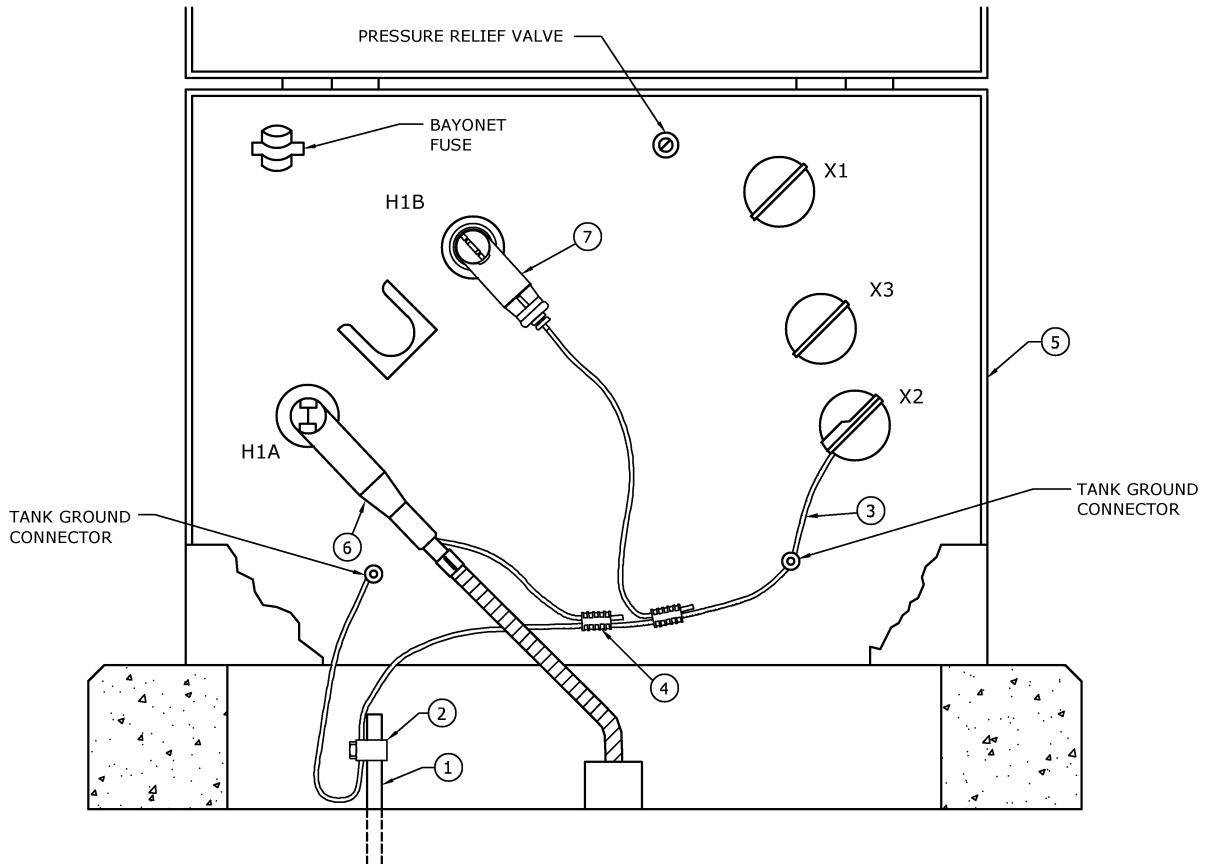
1. WHEN CONNECTING CONCENTRIC NEUTRALS TO TRANSFORMER GROUND, LEAVE AN ADEQUATE LENGTH SO ELBOWS CAN BE REMOVED WITHOUT DISCONNECTING NEUTRALS FROM GROUND.

Journeyman Event  
Insert Replacement & Elbow Inspection

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## Single Phase Pad-Mounted Transformer Radial Feed



NO.	INVENTORY NO.	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
1	-	1	ROD, GROUND, 5/8" x 8', COPPER CLAD
2	-	1	CLAMP, GROUNDING ROD
3	-	-	JUMPERS, LEADS, AS REQ'D.
4	-	X	CONNECTORS, AS REQ'D
5	-	1	XFMR, PAD MOUNTED W/ 2 PRI. LOAD BREAK BUSHINGS & INT. FUSE
6	-	1	ELBOW CONNECTOR, LOAD BREAK
7	-	1	ARRESTER, SURGE

### NOTES:

1. IN GROUNDING THE CONCENTRIC NEUTRAL SLACK IS TO BE ALLOWED FOR OPERATING THE ELBOW CONNECTOR.

Journeyman Event  
Insert Replacement & Elbow Inspection

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**Journeyman Event**  
**Insert Replacement, Elbow Inspection Judging Guidelines**

**Head Judge: Jeffery Williams (Greenville Utilities)**

Competitor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Competitor's City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Infractions That Cause a 2-Point Deduction**

- Failure to wear hard hat, safety glasses, and boots \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear rubber gloves \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to inspect transformer \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to ground \_\_\_\_\_
- Misuse of tools or use of the wrong tools \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to maintain proper clearance from energized conductors or parts \_\_\_\_\_
- Dropping or losing hard hat \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear a hard hat properly at all times (not backwards) \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear long sleeved shirt; sleeves rolled down and buttoned \_\_\_\_\_
- Hanging tools or materials on structure \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding mean time of 10 minutes for this event \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**INFRACTIONS THAT CAUSE A 10-POINT DEDUCTION**

- Improper energizing and de-energizing sequence \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to use proper live line tools \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to wear approved safety glasses with side shields \_\_\_\_\_
- Arguing with judges or bad conduct \_\_\_\_\_
- Dispute with Chief Judge that is not overturned \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceeding maximum time (drop dead) of 15 minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**After 20 minutes, competitors will be disqualified, and no time will be allowed for the event**

**Total Deductions:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time: Min:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sec:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Score: 100 – (total deductions) \_\_\_\_\_ = Total Score \_\_\_\_\_**

**Judge's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



**COMPETITOR ENTRY FORM**  
**NCAMES 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LINEMAN'S RODEO**

**CIRCLE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOR EACH QUESTION (Answer all 3):**

**1. COMPETITION LEVEL:**      JOURNEYMAN      APPRENTICE

**3. SHIRT SIZE:**      M      L      XL      XXL      XXXL

**COMPETITOR'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UTILITY/CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that the hooks, belts, and hand tools that I provide for the rodeo will be in safe operating condition.

***Signature of Competitor:*** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**THE FOLLOWING MUST BE COMPLETED BY APPRENTICE'S SUPERVISOR:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (supervisor), certify that the above listed contestant meets the criteria for apprentice.

**The Apprentice's supervisor shall complete the information below:**

**Signature of Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UTILITY/CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**\*\*Note: Release form must also be signed. See next page. \*\***

**\*Send to: Michael P. Caswell Jr. [caswellm@newbernnc.gov](mailto:caswellm@newbernnc.gov)  
210 Kale Road New Bern, NC, 28562  
P.O. Box 1129 New Bern, NC 28563**

# **RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

In consideration of NCAMES staging a Lineman's Rodeo in Dallas, NC (hereinafter "the Event"), or otherwise permitting me to attend such Event, I, on my own behalf and on behalf of my heirs, next of kin, representatives, administrators, and assigns, hereby agree as follows:

1. I HEREBY AGREE TO RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE NCAMES, its officers, directors, managers, employees, shareholders, insurers, or any participant in the Event (hereinafter "Releases") FOR ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PERSONAL INJURY, LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence or gross negligence of the Releases' or otherwise while I am participating in or attending the Event. I expressly acknowledge that injuries received may be compounded or increased by the negligent rescue operations or procedures of the Releases' and this Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement (the "Release") is expressly intended to include any such compounding or increasing of injury.

2. I understand that engaging in Lineman's Rodeo activities constitutes my involvement in a dangerous activity with accompanying risk of personal injury or death, or loss or damage to personal property, and I hereby voluntarily assume all risks and accept personal responsibility for the damages and medical expenses following any injury, permanent disability, or death, or loss or damage to personal property caused by the negligence or gross negligence of the Releases'.

3. I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releases' and each of them from any loss, liability, damage or cost they may incur due to my presence or participation in the event, including but not limited to responding to or defending against any allegation, claim or cause of action brought in violation of this Release.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING THE AGREEMENT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT INDUCEMENT, ASSURANCES, OR GUARANTEES BEING MADE TO ME AND INTEND MY SIGNATURE TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_