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Wish our teams luck at annual Lineman's Rodeo



It's rodeo time for the electric industry. Bluebonnet plans to send two journeyman lineman teams, seven apprentices, six judges, four master judges, two barbecue teams and numerous other volunteers to the 20th annual Texas Lineman's Rodeo at Nolte Island Park in Seguin. The competition takes place July 16 in a Guadalupe River bottom field studded with utility poles. The competition, open to electric cooperatives and municipal utilities across Texas, includes a pole climb requiring linemen to hold a raw egg in their mouths as they descend, power line repairs, a pole-top rescue of a mannequin the size of an injured lineman and a barbecue cook-off. Cheer on our teams in person or keep track of their progress via Bluebonnet's social media coverage throughout that day. For more information, visit tlaa.org/rodeoevent.



ABOVE LEFT: The Lineman's Rodeo simulates real-life lineman duties, but during competition, judges' clocks are ticking. John Riley and Matthew Ledford represented Bluebonnet during the 2015 Journeyman Hot Stick Insulator Change event. **FAR LEFT:** Member Service Representative Cindy Shafer kept time during the Hurtman Rescue, in which linemen perform a daring pole-top rescue of a 180-pound mannequin. **LEFT:** Linemen Kenneth Roush and Matthew Ledford competed in the Journeyman Downed Primary event, which simulates repairs linemen perform regularly.

Sarah Beal photos



FIRE smart

WISING UP TO WILDFIRES

Bluebonnet to showcase wildfire preparedness program at field day for members

Bluebonnet will showcase FireSmart, its new wildfire preparedness program, at a field day for members, area residents and environmental nonprofits Sept. 17 at the co-op's headquarters facility in Bastrop.

The free event will include demonstrations about how Bluebonnet has made its headquarters safer from the threat of wildfire. Nonprofits from across the region will be invited to showcase their organizations' environmental efforts at the event.

The event will show ways to make your home or office safer from wildfire, following the plan laid out for the co-op by the Texas Forest Service. Michal Hubbard, Bluebonnet's

coordinator for community education, will offer information and visitors can tour the co-op's property to see changes made to decrease the building's risk from fire.

The FireSmart program will help Bluebonnet bolster its internal wildfire preparedness and serve as a resource for the communities the co-op serves. In the future, workshops and presentations will be offered to community, public and nonprofit groups, as well as presentations for schoolchildren.

If you are interested in participating in, or attending, the FireSmart event in September, or are interested in arranging a presentation or workshop, call Michal Hubbard at **512-332-7977**.