

2018 Pipeline Safety Educational Conference

Official MN Utility Locate Rodeo Rules & Regulations

Disclaimer

The information contained within this document is subject to change without notice. Please continue to check our website at <http://ops.dps.mn.gov> periodically for any updates.

Goal

The intention of the MN Utility Locate Rodeo is to recognize the profession of underground utility (facility) locating and to demonstrate the safety, skills, and on-going educational efforts associated within the damage prevention profession. Participants will have the opportunity to test their craft, skills and knowledge of utility locating in a friendly competition against their peers.

Eligibility

The following are eligible to compete in the MN Utility Locate Rodeo:

- Practicing utility locating technicians employed by a utility company.
- Practicing utility locating technicians employed by a municipality or other local government unit.
- Practicing utility locating technicians employed by a contract locating company.
- Practicing utility locating technicians employed by a private locating company.

Note: If you have located facilities within the confines for Breezy Point Resort in Breezy Point, MN within the past six (6) months prior to the event, you are **ineligible** to compete.

General Rules and Pre-Rodeo Meeting

- All competitors, judges and volunteers must sign in by Monday, April 9th, 2018 at 10:30am at Breezy Point Resort in the registration area. Competitors must sign waivers (if not done so beforehand) and pick up their competitor packets at this time.
- Each competitor must decide what locating equipment they will use by April 9th, 2018 at 10:30am. After the rodeo starts, **no** deviations will be allowed.
- All competitors, judges, alternate judges and volunteers **must** attend the **pre-rodeo meeting on April 9th, 2018 at 11:15am in the Lakeside B room** at Breezy Point Resort.

- Judges and volunteers will be assigned their tasks.
- Competitors and judges will be given a list of the start times for each competitor. The start time order will be generated using a web-based randomizer (www.random.org).
- There will be a locate wheel area demonstration during the pre-rodeo meeting.
- **All competitors must check in to the staging area 15 minutes prior to their start time.** The staging area will be open at 12:45pm. Competitors will be escorted to the staging area.
- The **competition will begin at 1pm sharp** on April 9th, 2018.
- Competition will proceed in all weather conditions except during thunderstorms, so be prepared to dress accordingly.
- Judging for the MN Utility Locate Rodeo is based on rules adopted by the International Utility Locate Rodeo. These rules can be found at <http://www.locaterodeo.net/rodeo-rules>. Adopted rules have been modified for the MN Utility Locate Rodeo for location and relevancy purposes.
- Competitors are not allowed within the locate wheel area prior to setup nor prior to competing. Penalty for breaking this rule is **disqualification**.
 - A competitor may observe other competitors only **after** they have already competed. No communication, vocal, silent or otherwise, can be made to the competitor in the locate wheel area. Penalty for breaking this rule is **disqualification** of the observing individual.
- On the day of the locate rodeo, no one will be allowed in the restricted areas of the event except for registered judges, volunteers and designated Locate Rodeo committee members.
- Rules are subject to review and possible change at the discretion of the Master Judge.

Definitions

- Center Line of Facility: Top-dead center of the target utility (facility) as determined by the Master Judge.
- Locate Wheel: Area where each competitor will be judged. This area will be designed to have a center point with strings extending from the center and placed over the target utility.
- Competition Area: Locate wheel and associated structures. This area will be described during the pre-rodeo meeting. It is the responsibility of the competitor to be aware of the bounds of the Competition Area.
- Competitors Locate: Location of target utility (facility) as designated by the competitor with its measurement (location) as certified on an event template.
- Event Template: A scoring chart in which each competitor will document their measurements. Each event template will be judged and scored against a master event template.

Dress Code

Competitors **must** wear:

- A hard hat and high-visibility safety vest during their actual competition within the locate wheel area. Hard hats and safety vests may be removed before and after the competition.

Competitors may wear:

- Cargo pants, jeans or other work-appropriate pants. Must be clean with no rip or tears.
- Leather-soled shoes or boots. Clean tennis shoes may also be worn.
- Collared long-sleeve or short-sleeved shirt. A clean company long-sleeved or short-sleeved t-shirt may also be worn in lieu of a collared shirt.
- Clean jacket, coat, hoodie or other outerwear for warmth.
 - If the jacket, coat or hoodie is made of approved high-visibility material, then this item can be worn in lieu of the required high-visibility safety vest.
- Other optional items – gloves, mittens, and stocking cap (underneath the hard hat).

Event Competition

- The top three finishers (1st, 2nd, 3rd) will receive an award and recognition. The awards will be determined by the sponsorship participation.
- Immediately prior to their competition, each competitor will be directed to the designated start location and given a clipboard. Attached to the front will be the competitor's event template (scoring chart). On the back of the clipboard will be a map of the competition area. **DO NOT turn over the clipboard.** The Event Judge will allow each competitor two (2) minutes to ask any questions regarding the rodeo competition. Once you acknowledge the official rules and regulations and are ready to begin, you will tap 'START' on the timer (iPhone) adjacent to the start location and begin your competition.
- Each competitor will have up to 12 minutes to perform the following:
 - View the map on the back of the clipboard.
 - Find an access point.
 - Hook up their locating equipment.
 - Locate the target utility by placing a chip or flag where they believe the utility crosses the locate wheel.
 - Restore the locate wheel area to its original condition before returning to the start location.
 - Return to the start location and tap 'STOP' on the timer.
 - If the above steps cannot be completed within 12 minutes, the result will be elimination.

- Each competitor will be given a supply of chips or flags to be used in identifying the utility's target location. The chips or flags may be moved as many times as necessary, however there is a penalty for each movement after the initial placement (see rules for penalty).
- Each competitor will document his or her measurements on their event template.
- Conductive locating, inductive location or a combination of both is allowed.
- The 12-minute clock starts when the competitor taps 'START' on the timer.
- Each competitor will record their own measurements on their event template. The location of the chip or flag as measured by the competitor will be the accuracy component in the scoring. A tape measure will be provided at the locate wheel area for this purpose.
- After each competitor has completed their turn, he/she must return to the designated start location and tap 'STOP' on the timer. Stopping the timer while not fully returning to the designated start location will result in deduction of points. After stopping the timer, the competitor will submit their event template to the judge. The competitor may then proceed to a designated area to remain as a spectator.
 - Each event template shall have the competitor's name and equipment type.
 - Each event template shall be signed by the event judge.
 - Each event template shall be initialized by both the event judge and competitor.
- Time will be monitored using an official stopwatch (iPhone) and will be recorded on the event template to the 1/100th of a second.
- Once the competitor taps 'STOP', the clock will not be restarted for any reason. If however, an unforeseen circumstance should occur, the premature stoppage of time will be solely determined by the Event Judge(s).
- Time will be considered in a tie-breaking situation.

Scoring

General

- The competitor with the highest score at the end of the competition will be the winner.
- In the event of a tie score, the competitor with the better time will prevail.
- 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place winners will be determined based on scores highest to lowest (higher score prevailing).
- Final scores are reviewed by the Master Judge and deemed final prior to the presentation of awards on Tuesday, April 10th, 2018. Awards and recognitions for the winners will be announced during the opening remarks of the MNOPS conference.

Accuracy

- Each competitor will begin with 1,000 points
- If a competitor fails to record measurements on any single string or crossing of the locate wheel where the master event template indicates the targeted facility actually

crosses, he/she will lose the amount of points (up to the maximum of 1,000 points) associated with the actual master event template measurement.

- Example: The competitor fails to take a measurement of their placed chip/flag and the master event template shows the targeted facility crossing the chip/flag at 74 inches from the center pin, the competitor will receive a 74-point infraction.
- If a competitor records a measurement(s) where no actual utility-string crossing exists, he/she will lose points equaling the measurement(s).
 - Example: The competitor records a measurement of 74 inches from the center pin to their placed chip or flag along one of the strings, but the master event template shows no targeted utility crossing that string, the competitor will receive a 74-point infraction.
- Infractions may be calculated resulting in a negative score if necessary.

One-Point Infractions

- Moving chips or flags after initial placement. (1 point for each occurrence)
- Failure to return all tools to tool box.
- Failure to retract the tape measure and return it to the designated area.
- Failure to return to the designated start location before tapping 'STOP'.
- Failure to remove all chips and/or flags from the Competition Area before tapping 'STOP'. (1 point for each failure)
- Failure to secure locating instruments and accessories in a carrying case or bag. Case or bag must be closed properly before the 12-minute countdown starts AND before tapping 'STOP'.
 - If a competitor does not have a proper bag, competitors may request a bag (if available) from sponsors on-site to store their equipment for the competition.
- Dropping or losing your hard hat while inside the Competition Area.
- Failure to wear your hard hat properly (not backwards or otherwise) at all times while inside the Competition Area.

Five-Point Infractions

- Failure to reconnect bonds on access point(s).
- Breaking a string or dislodging a hub.
- Damage to any access point or utility including, but not limited to, peeling or removing wire coating or insulated jacket material.
- Failure to wear your hard hat and safety vest inside the Competition Area.
- Alteration of any provided apparel, cap, competitor number (if provided) or any other supplied materials.
- Performing any hand gestures that may be considered offensive. This determination is at the discretion of the Event Judge(s).
- Performing any body language or gestures that may help or hurt another competitor's score. This determination is at the discretion of the Event Judge(s).

Ten-Point Infractions

- Straying out of bounds of the competition area. (1st infraction)
 - Stepping outside or beyond the extent of the strings of the locate wheel area during competition is allowed.

Disqualifications

- Straying out of bounds of the competition area. (2nd infraction)
- Allowing the timer to run beyond 12 minutes.
- Aggressive behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct.

Competitor Substitution

- An alternate or substitute for any pre-registered competitor is allowed up to the time of the competition on April 9th, 2018. The alternate must meet eligibility requirements and have registered and attend the pre-rodeo meeting.

Tools & Equipment

- All types of electro-magnetic locating devices will be allowed. Each competitor must indicate on their event template the brand and model number of the equipment used for competition.
- Each competitor may use his/her own equipment.
- All equipment must be in safe operating condition.
- All locating devices shall be clearly marked with the competitor's name and company name.
- Instruments provided by sponsoring equipment manufacturers may be available for use by competitors. This arrangement shall be solely agreed upon between the competitor and sponsor.
- The MN Utility Locate Rodeo, Locate Rodeo committee members, and any sponsoring companies, will not be responsible for any lost or stolen equipment during the locate rodeo event.

Judges

- The MN Utility Locate Rodeo will consist of its committee members, a Master Judge, Event Judges and alternate judges. The Master Judge shall oversee the entire competition and be capable of settling disputes. All decisions by the Master Judge are final. The alternate judges will be available to substitute for any Event Judges as needed.

- Judges will treat all competitors professionally, with respect and courtesy. Inappropriate activity during the competition (such as high-fives, smirks, cheering, or other visible signs of inappropriate behavior) will not be tolerated by the Rodeo Committee.
 - Congratulatory behavior and support between fellow competitors is encouraged before and after each competitor's turn.
- Disrespect towards a judge from any competitor will not be tolerated and may result in disqualification for the entire event.
- Judges shall not judge a competitor from their company or from a locate contractor that works for their company. Alternate judges shall be utilized in such circumstances.

Rules for Event Judge Questions

- Competitors may ask the judge(s) questions prior to their competition, but not after they have tapped 'START'.
- It is the competitor's responsibility to clarify any of the official rules prior to beginning their competition.
- Each competitor will have a maximum of two (2) minutes to stand ready at the start location with equipment in hand and ask the judge(s) any questions. This two (2) minutes **does not** include viewing the map.
- A competitor may declare a protest to any judging call. Protests are to be declared **after their competition has completed and before the competitor leaves the site**. Protests are to be declared to the Event Judge(s) only. Upon competitor notification to an Event Judge, the Event Judge shall request the Master Judge to discuss the protest in which the Master Judge shall ultimately make an "official call" to resolve the dispute.
- Video or photo footage will not be allowed to settle judging disputes.

Contesting a Judging Call

- If a competitor can demonstrate a problem with any particular judging call, he/she should protest to the Event Judge(s) after he/she has completed their competition.
- Upon the competitor's protest to the Event Judge, the Event Judge will radio the Event Leader and the Master Judge. The Master Judge will discuss the protest with the Event Judge and ultimately make an "official call" to resolve the dispute.
- The Locate Rodeo event will continue using an alternate judge will the dispute is being resolved.
- Decisions by the Master Judge are final.