



**Date:** May 31, 2016

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Mary Howell, 804-968-4070 ([mhowell@odec.com](mailto:mhowell@odec.com))

## **‘Something for Everyone’ at Annual Gaff-n-Go Rodeo** *Electric Utility Lineman Day Will Be Celebrated June 4 at Meadow Event Park*

**Doswell, Va.** — The skills and equipment of crews who work to safely restore power following an outage event will be on display Friday and Saturday, June 3-4 at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Terex® Gaff-n-Go Equipment Operator’s & Lineman’s Rodeo.

More than 150 line workers and volunteer judges from five states are slated to compete at Meadow Event Park in Doswell. Friday’s competition starts at 11:15 a.m. with the equipment-operators’ rodeo, which will test each team’s ability to maneuver the bucket trucks and digger derricks used to help maintain electric distribution systems. Beginning at 7:45 a.m. on Saturday, the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo will feature competitions among 50 individual apprentices and 21 three-man journeyman teams.

“There’s something for everyone at the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo,” says Richard Johnstone, executive vice president of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC), which hosts this event.

Johnstone explains that the name Gaff-n-Go refers to the “gaff,” or metal spike, that linemen attach to their boots to assist in climbing wooden utility poles. “Working 40 feet above the ground on a course of utility poles, these professionals will be judged on whether a variety of tasks are performed according to safe and efficient work practices, as well as the time it takes them to complete each,” he notes.

Saturday has been declared “Electric Utility Lineman Day” by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe. Parking as well as admission are free both days, with a food vendor on site. Families can also enjoy a petting zoo, face-painting and balloon-artist activities from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information and directions to Meadow Event Park, visit [www.gaff-n-go.com](http://www.gaff-n-go.com). Facebook fans can check out photos from previous years and find out the latest news at [www.facebook.com/gaffngo](http://www.facebook.com/gaffngo).

### **About VMDAEC**

Founded in 1944, VMDAEC is the trade association for 15 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives that serve Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The Glen Allen, Va.-based Association provides its members with safety training, continuing education, legislative and regulatory support and communications services, including the publishing of *Cooperative Living* magazine. The magazine has the largest circulation of any Virginia publication, with more than 550,000 subscribers. For more information, visit [www.vmdaec.com](http://www.vmdaec.com) or [www.co-opliving.com](http://www.co-opliving.com).