

Press Release

Peru Utilities Lineman Earns 2nd Place in Lineworkers' Rodeo



Two Peru Utilities lineworkers, Journeyman Isaac Harp and Apprentice Journeyman Derek Haynes, competed against lineworkers from municipal utilities and rural cooperatives from around the state in the Indiana Municipal Electric Association's (IMEA) 5th Annual Indiana Lineworkers' Rodeo in Scottsburg, Indiana in September 2015. The statewide competition provides a platform to highlight this profession and the skills involved in this trade, which is among the most dangerous.

While the primary objective of this event focuses on safety training courses and practicing skills, bringing home a custom-crafted trophy with a few bragging rights for the community is a bonus. Derek Haynes did just that earning three perfect scores out of five events and an overall 2nd place finish in the Apprentice category.

Electric Transmission & Distribution Superintendent Curt Bankston said he was proud of both linemen who participated. *"Today, lineworkers make up less than 1% of the workforce and without their skills the other 99% would work in the dark,"* Bankston said. *"Participation in this event is a tremendous opportunity for our staff to learn new safety techniques and work practices. The benefits of this training extend to fellow coworkers, employers and the customers we serve. The fact that Derek performed at this level speaks highly of his commitment to our apprenticeship program and the level of excellence he has already achieved."*