

DAMAGE PREVENTION SUMMIT LOCATE RODEO
Official Rules and Regulations

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DISCLAIMER

The information contained within this document is subject to change without notice. Please continue to check the event website often for any updates or changes that may occur.

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LOGISTICS:

The Mississippi Summit Locate Rodeo:

Location: TBD

Date: Friday, November 6, 2026

Time:

- Registration and Lunch Start at 1:00 PM
- Mandatory Rules Meeting 1:30 PM
- *Competition starts once the mandatory meeting is completed*

OUR GOAL

The intention of the DP Summit Locate Rodeo is to recognize the profession of underground utility facility locating and to demonstrate the safety, skills, and ongoing educational efforts associated with high-quality workmanship. At the end of the day of competition, the participants will say that it as fair and consistent in judging and the Rodeo was a pleasant and fun event.

ELIGIBILITY

- Practicing, everyday Utility Locate Technicians and Supervisors designed the Damage Prevention Summit Locate Rodeo. If you are or have been a practicing technician employed by a utility company, one of their locate contractors, an owner or employee of a private locating company, or use electronic equipment to locate underground facilities as part of your job duties, you are eligible to compete in the Rodeo.
- If you have located facilities within the confines of the Rodeo Event grounds within 6 months prior to the event, you are ineligible to compete.

GENERAL RULES AND MEETING

- **All competitors should be at Rodeo event site no later than 1:00 PM.** on the day of the event for check-in and **must be present by 1:30 PM for a Mandatory Rules Meeting.** You must check-in prior to the meeting, check-in starts at 1:00 PM.
- The Mandatory Rules Meeting will take place at the staging area, site TBD. Failure to report by 1:30 PM may result in total event disqualification. See Master Judge immediately to discuss.
- Competition will begin immediately following the mandatory rules meeting.
 - Competition will proceed in all weather conditions, except during thunderstorms or if lightning in the area. If thunderstorms/lightning occur, some events may be shortened or eliminated but scoring will not be adversely impacted.
- Judging for the Damage Prevention Summit Locate Rodeo is based on rules adopted by the Rodeo Rules Committee.
- **Dress Code:**
 - **Pants:** Competitors may wear any type of trousers, jeans, or shorts (all clothing must be professional...no holes, etc.)
 - **Shoes:** Competitors may wear any type of work shoes including boots or clean tennis shoes.
 - **Safety Vest:** Competitor must wear a safety vest during their actual competition at their event zones. The safety vest may be removed before and after your competitive sessions. You or your company must provide safety vests.

Definitions

- **Rodeo Wheel** - Placed in the “Event Area” as the competitors' measuring point for all utilities within the specified event. It looks similar to the look of a wagon wheel; this set up has a center pin with a revolving tape measure attached to it. It has 8 lines and end points from the center pin. Each endpoint is a specific color. The color at the endpoint is considered the color of the line (i.e., yellow, orange, blue, red, purple, green, pink, black). The event site template colors correspond with the placement of each endpoint on every event site.
- **Center Line of Facility** - Top-dead center of the target utility/facility as determined by the event site committee.
- **Event Area** - Immediate area of a particular Event Zone. The boundaries will be identified by 4 or more traffic cones or stakes with Locate Rodeo flags attached to each cone. The “Rodeo Wheel” and/or other markings will also clearly identify the area.
- **Out of bounds** – is defined as any time a competitor moves outside the boundaries of the event site defined by the traffic cones or stakes. If a competitor crosses the boundary, the judge will throw a yellow flag at the site of the infraction and verbally warn the competitor he is out of bounds, this is a 10-point deduction. If the competitor doesn’t return within the event boundary immediately, he will be disqualified for that event and must stop all locating immediately.
- **Competitors Locate** - Location of target utility facility as designated by the competitor, with its measurement (location) as certified on the Event Template.
- **Timing Out** – if the judge calls time, competitor must stop all activity, because time has exceeded 12 minutes (Locate from Hell will be 3 minutes), then a time of 12 minutes and 01 second (Locate from Hell will be 3 minutes and 01 second) will be entered. Measurements on the event site template

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prior to the call of time will be entered and a 50-point deduction will be assessed to the competitor's score for that event. Other deductions, listed under the Infractions section, will be applied.

- **Calling “Time”** – this is when the competitor calls time by stating “I am finished” as he/she believes the event has been completed
- **Ghost Measurement** – measurement placed on any signal other than the intended target facility, this is a 100-point deduction

COMPETITION

- All competitors will compete in a competitive division AND the Locate From Hell (LFH)
- Four Competitive Divisions will be available:
 - Telecommunication
 - Gas
 - Power
 - Water
- Maximum number of entrants: 40 total, with 10 per division
- Prizes:
 - The winner of each division will receive a cash prize based on the number of rodeo entrants. Additionally, there will be awards and cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in the overall division. With the Overall Rodeo Champion winning a \$1,000 cash prize
- Locate From Hell (LFH) - is an event designed with a 3-minute time limit
 - All competitors will receive a copy of the map/plat of the event in their handout at The mandatory meeting.
 - Locating equipment will be provided by sponsoring equipment manufacturers.
 - Choose from the provided equipment; announce your equipment choice to the judge and the transmitter will be turned to the frequency of your choosing (all transmitters will be hooked up prior to competition). A competitor may change locate equipment during the LFH as long as the equipment is made by the same manufacturer as their original selection
 - Rodeo coins and flags will be the only markers used and provided at the event site.
 - A judge will assist in taking measurements.
 - An Event volunteer will record measurements as the competitor calls them out.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Each event will be pre-determined by the Event Site Committee
- Conductive locating, Inductive locating, or a combination of both is allowed
- Use of a cell phone or smart watch is prohibited while competing on an event site
- The clock starts when the Judge says "Begin"
- Map/plat of underground utilities will be posted for Competitors. The competitor will have up to 12 minutes (3 minutes for Locate from Hell competitors) to view map/plat, find an access point and hook up locate the facility (with Rodeo issued Coins and/or flags only) then document measurements onto the provided template (as in the real world, the maps/plats shall serve as reference documents only...they are not guaranteed to be 100% accurate)
- Competitors may bring their own stopwatch

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- Time updates will not be given out by a judge to the competitor.
- The Rodeo coins may be moved as many times as necessary without penalty. If competitor is using flags, they may not be “moved” once they are placed (a flag is considered “moved” if the competitor release their hand from the flag once it is placed in the ground and then moves that same flag to another spot). Points will be deducted if the flag is “moved”. The competitor may place a coin to designate the exact location of the utility as determined by the competitor there is no deduction for moving the coins.
- All of this must be performed within the 12-minute timeframe (3 minutes for Locate from Hell competitors)
- Competitors will record their own measurements. Except for the LFH, the competitor will call out their measurements to a judge that will record it for them. The location of the Rodeo coins as measured by the participant is the accuracy component in judging the event. A tape measuring instrument will be provided at each event zone attached to the center point of the wheel. All measurements must be recorded in feet and inches and legible.
- The competitor will pull and log the measurement from the center point of the wheel to the crossing point on any and all of the "spokes" of the wheel that the target utility crosses.
- Competitor must return Event site to original condition before calling time
 - rolling measuring tape up to its original position
 - return coins to the judges table and placed in the box they were taken from
 - flags returned to original position they were taken from
- Before beginning and before calling time for the event the competitor’s bag must be properly closed and at the Judge’s table.
- Once competitor has completed the Event, he/she must say "I am finished." Only then, the clock will stop.
- Time will be kept by the judge and the event leader, then be compared for the most accurate time.
- Times will be recorded on a stopwatch in minutes and seconds.
- Clock will not be stopped for any reason unless a foreign or unforeseen issue arises.
- Any premature stoppage of time will be determined solely by the on-site judge. The competitor may request a review by the Master Judges if he/she believes the situation was not addressed equitably.
- Time will be considered for tie-breaking only. In the event time does not break the tie, competitors who are tied will each receive the full prize, or share in the prizes for the place they are tied in.
- When the competitor has finished, he/she will give the completed template to the event zone scoring person and verify measurements while measurements are recorded by the event zone scoring person, into a computer, then proceed to a designated area or he/she may remain as a spectator.
- If the tie is in first, there will only be 2 (two) first place awards given and 1 (one) third place awards given. If the tie is in second place, then 2 (two) second place awards and 1 (one) first place award will be given with no third place being awarded. If the tie is in third place there will be 1 (one) first, 1 (one) second and 2 (two) third places awarded.

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ACCURACY

- Each competitor will begin each event with 1000 points.
- If a competitor calls time and fails to record any measurements on the template at all, he/she will receive a score of “0” for that event.
- If a competitor fails to record measurements on any single string or crossing where the Master Template indicates the targeted facility actually crosses, he/she will lose the amount of points associated with the actual Master Template measurement, i.e., "If a competitor fails to take a measurement on the Blue pin and the Master Template shows the targeted facility crossing the Blue pin at 6’2” (74 inches) from the Center pin, the competitor will take a 74 point infraction" "If the crossing happens to be 19’5” (234 inches) from the Center pin, the competitor will take a 234 point infraction."
- Infractions will be calculated in the negative if it is necessary for the calculation of the final scores.

INFRACTIONS

ONE POINT INFRACTIONS

1. _____ Moving flags after initial placement. (1 point per flag movement)
2. _____ Failure to replace all rodeo coins in the designated box on judge’s table. This includes placing all rodeo tools or flags to their original location before calling for time. (1 point per coin/flag/tool)
3. _____ Failure to retract tape measure.
4. _____ Failure to have locating instruments, tools and accessories secured in a properly closed carrying case or bag. (Case or bag must be at the judge’s table before time starts and before time is called.)

FIVE POINT INFRACTIONS

1. _____ Failure to reconnect bonds on any access point.
2. _____ Breaking a string or displacing any spoke or hub of the event site wheel.
3. _____ Failure to wear safety vest while in the Event Site Area.

TEN POINT INFRACTIONS

1. _____ Strayed from out of bounds (1st infraction)

FIFTY POINT INFRACTIONS

1. _____ Competitor opened undesignated access point
2. _____ Failure to return utility record to Judge’s table in the condition it as was received.

If the judge calls time, competitor must stop all activity, because time has exceeded 12 minutes, then a time of 12 minutes and 01 seconds will be entered. Measurements on the event site template prior to the call of time will be entered and a 50-point deduction will be assessed to the competitor’s score for that event by the scoring software. (This is called timing out, see definitions)

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ONE HUNDRED POINT INFRACTIONS

- Occurs when a Ghost measurement is placed on any signal other than the intended target facility

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Aggressive behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Strayed from designated event boundaries and failed to return to immediately. (2nd infraction).
- Damage to any access point or facility including but not limited to peeling or removing wire coating or insulated jacket material.
- Using a cell phone or smart watch while competing at event site.
- Competitor altering the event site in such a way as to hinder or help another competitor.
- Failure to be present at the Mandatory Rules Meeting (Absolutely no exceptions)
- No competitor will be allowed access to his/her Events until it is their turn to compete. Competitors may remain as a spectator in a designated area after he/she has completed an Event however, the competitor shall not make hand gestures or other signs that would benefit or hurt another competitor's chances. Any competitor found in violation will be immediately disqualified for the entire competition and asked to leave the Rodeo grounds
- Any competitor that shares information with another, on any event will be disqualified
- Any competitor that strays from designated areas and does not return after being warned by the judge will be disqualified.
- The competitor should finish the event site and a master judge will be called to the event site to verify a disqualification has occurred.
- Any competitor that removes his/her provided T-Shirt and /or Rodeo Competitor Number Plate (if provided), at any time during the Rodeo, will be disqualified.
- Unprofessional behavior will result in disqualification
- Entering Rodeo location site 3 days prior to event unless escorted by Rodeo Staff will result in disqualification (video monitored).
- Attempts to gain access to campus records or any other information on rodeo location facility will result in disqualification.
- Intentional sabotage or tampering with equipment, event sites or other attempts at disruption will result in disqualification.
- A Judge is recused from judging an employee of his/her company or an employee of one of their contractors. An alternate judge will replace the recused judge. If a Judge fails to replace himself/herself and judges one of his/her company's employees, the competitor involved will be disqualified for that Event

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OTHER INFRACTIONS

- Any competitor exhibiting aggressive behavior, verbal or physical, including throwing equipment will be disqualified by the master judges.

COMPETITOR SUBSTITUTION

- An alternate or substitute for any pre-registered competitor must be declared prior to the mandatory rules meeting prior to the competition and will be allowed as long as the alternate or substitute meets eligibility requirements.
- Any alternate or substitute must comply with all rules and procedures set forth by the committee.

JUDGES

- The Rodeo will consist of a Master Judge, Event Judges, and alternate judges. The Master Judge shall oversee the entire competition and be available to settle disputes. All decisions by the Master Judges are final. The Alternate Judges will be available to substitute for an Event Judge if needed.
- Judges will treat all competitors with professional respect and courtesy. High-Fives, smirks or other visible signs of inappropriate activity will not be tolerated from judging staff. Unfair judging and disrespect to competitors will not be tolerated. Disrespect from competitors will not be tolerated either. This type of behavior may result in total Rodeo disqualification.
- Judges will not judge a competitor from their company or from a Locate Contractor that works for their company. Alternate Judges will be available for such scenarios.
- Master Judge reserves the right to impose additional penalties not shown in the rules when unforeseen conditions arise that may be deemed unsafe or inappropriate...or not generally practiced in the industry.

RULES FOR EVENT JUDGE QUESTIONS

- Competitors may ask the on-site judge questions prior to the event, but not after the clock has started.
- It is the competitor's responsibility to ask the questions prior to beginning an event
- The competitor will have a maximum of two minutes to stand ready with equipment in hand and ask the judge any questions. This timeframe includes the judge's answers (No questions allowed from "Locate from Hell" competitors) This two minutes does not include viewing the plat/map.
- The competitor must make protests to the Event Judges only. Protests are to be declared after event is completed and before the competitor leaves the event site.
- Upon competitor notification to an Event Judge of the protest, the Event Judge shall request the Master Judge to discuss the situation and make the "official call".
- Video or photo footage will not be allowed to settle judging disputes.

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CONTESTING A CALL

- If a competitor can demonstrate a problem with any particular judging call, he/she should protest to the Event Judge after he/she has completed the Event before leaving the event site.
- Upon competitor's notification to an Event Judge of a protest, the Event Judge shall contact the Event Leader who will contact the Master Judge(s) to discuss the situation and make the "official call" and/or settle the dispute.
- The Master Judge(s) will be available by radio or as needed and will proceed as soon as possible to the event in question in order to rectify the situation
- The competition will proceed with an alternate judge while the dispute is settled.
- Decisions of the Master Judge(s) are final.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

- All types of electro-magnetic locating devices will be allowed in this competition except at the LFH.
- Each competitor is responsible for providing their own equipment, but all equipment must be in safe operating condition except during the locate from hell.
- Please make certain that your equipment and tools are clearly marked with your name and company identification. The Summit Locate Rodeo nor their sponsoring companies will be responsible for your property.