

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2021

## SAVE THE DATE

Oct. 4–8

**Workshop: Staking Technician Seminar—Phase III**

Georgetown, TEC Training Facility

Oct. 12

**Multi-Circuit Design Considerations**

Webinar

Oct. 12–15

**Troubleshooting School**

Tahoka, Lyntegar EC

Oct. 12–15

**Basic Pole Climbing School**

Bartlett, Bartlett EC

Nov. 2–5

**TEC Loss Control Conference & Exhibit Show**

Frisco, Embassy Suites

Nov. 9

**Methods for Improving Reliability**

Webinar

Nov. 15–17

**Managing Utility Rights-of-Way**

Georgetown, TEC Training Facility

Find photos from [Loss Control schools](#) on the TEC website.

## ALWAYS THINK SAFETY

**Gloves | Grounds | Cover Up**

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Use the [TEC Safety and Loss Control discussion list](#) on the TEC member website to share and gather information.



A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM TEC LOSS CONTROL

# Back Together

After hiatus, TEC Loss Control Conference turns spotlight on safety

Safety is never far from the minds of utility workers in the field, their managers and TEC’s instructors. But the opportunity to assemble and put safety front and center at TEC’s annual Loss Control Conference & Exhibit Show underscores the topic in significant ways that benefit all employees at electric cooperatives.

“We learn different techniques on how to create and maintain different mindsets of individuals,” said Albert Gaitan, operations manager at San Patricio EC, who’s eager to attend the 2021 conference, Nov. 2–5 at the Embassy Suites in Frisco. The Loss Control Conference gives Gaitan ideas and techniques to maintain the safety culture at San Patricio EC, which has won the GE Safety Award four of the past five years by excelling in a number of areas. “Also, every person we have taken [to the conference] comes back more appreciative of their job and the cooperative culture,” he added.

This will mark TEC’s first safety conference since March 2020, when the annual gathering of hundreds of utility workers from co-ops and other organizations was cut short as COVID-19 first prompted quarantines and a shutdown of gatherings nationwide.

Danny Williams, TEC’s Loss Control manager, said he’s heard for a year and a half at schools he’s conducted that people miss the togetherness the conference generates—a bond built around emphasizing safe work practices. “The conference gives everyone the opportunity to share with others and take something away from it that is useful in their lives and job,” he said.



Utility workers get the chance to meet with vendors and inspect and learn about new tools and services.

PHOTOS: CHRIS SALAZAR | TEC

### Topics that will be featured in Frisco include:

- ▶ Luck is not a strategy.
- ▶ Climate change and severe weather patterns.
- ▶ A lineman’s perspective on February’s severe weather.
- ▶ Underground utility damage prevention.
- ▶ Transportation safety: Why it matters and what works.

Organizations and individuals will be honored for outstanding safety records, and Lifesaving and Good Samaritan awards will go to employees who changed lives in their communities.

In addition, attendees can network and reconnect with old friends during the Gordon Williams Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament, exhibit show and reception, and scholarship auction. In 2021 the Loss Control program awarded \$1,200 scholarships to 43 high school graduates.



## Loss Control Conference Calendar

**2021 TEC Loss Control Conference & Exhibit Show**  
Nov. 2–5

Frisco, Embassy Suites  
Register [here](#) by Oct. 4 for the lowest price.

**2022 TEC Loss Control Conference & Exhibit Show**  
March 15–18

San Marcos, Embassy Suites

# What Can Utility Drones Do?

From RE Magazine



DON JOHNSON | TVEC

Trinity Valley EC crew foreman Billy Sherrell uses an unmanned aerial vehicle to inspect equipment.

As the range, payload and number of available sensors for unmanned aerial systems have increased, and federal restrictions regarding their commercial use have eased, more electric cooperatives are adding drones to their operations toolbox. “UASs are becoming a foundational part of many co-ops’ inspection processes,” says Stan McHann, NRECA senior research engineer. “Their increased use will have a direct and measurable impact on grid reliability.”

**Hi-Res Imager** A drone can get close to hard-to-reach equipment and allow high-resolution cameras (20 megapixels or more) to capture images that can help crews detect rust, wear and tear, missing parts, and storm damage.

**Thermal Sensor** From their overhead vantage, drones with thermal scanners can identify overheating equipment in substations, power plants and transmission towers, allowing technicians to locate potential trouble spots before they fail.

**Lidar** Light detection and ranging sensors use lasers to measure elevation and produce highly accurate maps and 3D models for right-of-way management and substation maintenance, among other uses.

**Future Application: Integration With GIS** Syncing drone data with geographic information systems and integrating artificial intelligence and machine learning to make sense of the data will allow inspection results to be viewed across utility job functions.

## TEC UPDATE

### TEC Seeks Injury and Safety Information

TEC requests your organization’s data for 2021. The Injury/ Incident Report and Lifesaving Award and 24/7 Good Samaritan Award nomination forms will be available Oct. 1 on the [TEC website](#).

**Important Deadlines**

**Dec. 31:** Nominations for 2021 TEC Loss Control Lifesaving Awards and 24/7 Good Samaritan Awards. **Late nominations will not be accepted.**

**Jan. 21, 2022:** 2021 Injury/Incident Report. This report includes all employee recognitions and award nominations.

### 2022 Registration

Registration is open for 2022 TEC Loss Control schools. The size of each school is limited and schools will fill up quickly, so don’t delay registering. The 2022 school calendar is available on the [Event Calendar](#) page of the TEC website. For more information, email Tami Knipstein at [tknipstein@texas-ec.org](mailto:tknipstein@texas-ec.org).

### 2022 TEC Loss Control Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available on the [TEC website](#). The application deadline is **Jan. 17, 2022**.

### Fire Prevention Week Is Oct. 3–9

The [National Fire Protection Association](#) urges you to make your home safe.

- ▶ Install working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- ▶ Smoke alarms should be on every level of the home, outside each sleeping area and inside every bedroom.
- ▶ CO alarms should be on every level of the home outside sleeping areas.
- ▶ Keep fire extinguishers within easy reach.



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