

East Tennessee Underground Distribution Roundup

The Oak Ridge Electric Department and Tennessee JT&S, with the aid of TVPPA are hosting an underground distribution event. On January 26, 2017 instructors, vendors, designers and constructors will gather at the Civic Center in Oak Ridge for an event designed to provide quality education, showcase technology and promote exchange of ideas and information.



The event, called the “East Tennessee Underground Distribution Roundup”, was developed from an idea pitched to Electric Director Jack Suggs by members of the Department.

“Employees from across the Department were interested in attending an event focused on Underground Distribution where they could see and handle the best tools, supplies, equipment and parts used in our industry today,” he said. “Mike Simmons of JT&S really liked the idea and together we sketched out what the program should look like and started to develop a concept. I contacted John Cooke of TVPPA who also liked the idea and agreed to

provide support as well and before you knew it, we had a plan that everyone was excited about.”

The event will begin on Wednesday night with an optional informal chili dinner which will include bon fires, a wild food cooking contest and blue grass music where everyone is invited to play with the band. On Thursday, the real event begins with classes provided for those who do engineering design, hands-on construction and, of course, provide a focus on safety. The class schedules are designed to allow plenty of time for participants to visit vendor and manufacturer displays, watch vendor demonstrations and learn from each other.

One highlight of the event will be a vendor rodeo, where teams of vendors and manufacturers’ representatives will compete head to head in using their equipment in real world conditions- locating faults, repairing and terminating cables. Trophies and bragging rights will be awarded.

We are working to keep cost very low for everyone concerned. Registered participants will be provided meals on site and the first 100 registered will receive a free t-shirt. For more information or to register, visit <http://ugroundup.oakridgetn.gov> or email ugroundup@oakridgetn.gov.