

# News



## 3M™ Dynatel™ Locators shine in competition

**This 'rodeo' entailed competing to locate underground utilities, and that's where 3M™ Dynatel™ Locator products come in.**

There were no bucking broncos to ride. And there was no lassoing of cattle. At the International Locate Rodeo, far different skills are put to the test. The 2007 event, held at Emory University in Atlanta, included head-to-head competition between some of the best utility locators in the business. An exposition of equipment and technology, and a certification seminar on locator competence were held in conjunction with the competition.

The International Locate Rodeo, co-sponsored by the National Utility Locating Contractors Association and the Utilities Protection Center of Georgia, is the preeminent competitive event for utility-locate technicians in the United States, Canada and Europe.

According to Claudette Campbell, executive director, Utilities Protection Center, this rodeo for locate professionals fosters all-around job excellence, a safer work environment and reduced damage to the utility infrastructure. "This competition gives a profession that normally goes unnoticed, unless a mistake is made, an opportunity to be recognized for doing a good job," she said.

Two of the four divisions in this year's International Locate Rodeo competition were won by contestants using 3M™ Dynatel™ Locator equipment.

One of these contestants was John Manis of Tallahassee, Fla. This was the first time he had participated in the rodeo, and he is the first person to win from Florida. Manis has eight years of field experience in locating underground utilities and

works as a subcontractor for RWL Communications, a supplier to Comcast Corp. He locates all utilities in conjunction with Comcast's hard-line and fiber-optic cable network.

Manis was chosen by Sunshine State One-Call of Florida to participate in the 2007 event, based on his flawless work record, having caused no damage to any of the thousands of utility lines he has located in the past eight years.

"I'm accustomed to handling work in a crowded utility environment," Manis said. "Our typical workload is 75 to 80 tickets per day, shared by two people, so the need to work quickly and accurately was nothing new. But it was somewhat intimidating to compete with such a large number of people from so many different places, not knowing what to expect beforehand. Fortunately, my [3M™] Dynatel™ 2250M-iD Locator came through for me, just as it does on the job every day.

"My Dynatel system performed flawlessly at the rodeo," he continued. "It locked on every time, with a consistently strong signal and no bleeding off, and it put me right on top of everything, right on the mark. You can have a lot of experience and good locating judgment, but if your equipment doesn't perform well, you can't do the job with confidence.

"I was completely surprised and very pleased at the awards banquet when they called my name as the Telecom Division winner. Without my 3M Dynatel locator, I would be just another competitor. But with it, I was named the World's Best Telecom Locator!"

John Manis of Tallahassee, Fla., took first place in the Telecom Division at the 2007 International Locate Rodeo. He credits his 3M™ Dynatel™ 2250M-iD Locator for helping him win.