



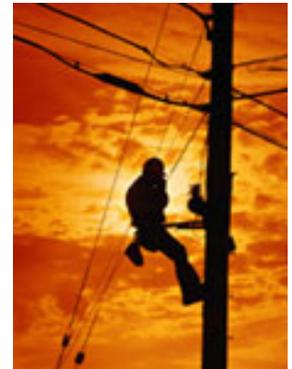
In Conjunction with the OSHA Alliance

OSHA Alliance News

Through the joint efforts of NECA, SELCAT, OSHA and IBEW representatives, the OSHA Alliance Implementation Team Members are gearing up to develop a new website that will enable all participants to access Alliance information at anytime, anywhere. Through the website, “Near Miss Reports”, Newsletters, and current updates will be available at the click of the

mouse. The hope of this new venue is that employees and employers, alike, will find it easier to get involved with the Alliance. Links such as “Report Near Miss”, “Lineman Forum” and “Surveys”, and will allow the Alliance to keep information up-to-date and pertinent for the men and women in the field. As always, safety is the first priority of the Alliance and, with your

help, the Alliance website can be another helpful tool to insure our workforce’s safety throughout the industry.



Important Dates:

November 12th
OSHA Alliance Meeting

What is a “Best Practice”?

Definition of a “Best Practice”:

Electrical Transmission and Distribution Partnership defines a “Best Practice” as a process or method that can be applied throughout the electrical industry that will assist companies in reducing the frequency of incidents.

Purpose of a “Best Practice”:

The ET&D Partnership has established a “Best Practice Committee” that believes properly executed Insulate and Isolate (I&I) techniques allow a line worker to safely work on and around energized equipment and conductors. The employer must ensure

that each employee who performs energized line work is ‘qualified’ through training and experience to perform the work assigned. It is understood by this committee that when speaking of “Best Practices Insulate and Isolate techniques,” the “best practice” is much more than simply the application of rubber/plastic insulating goods or rules regarding personal protective equipment (PPE). The I&I best practice consists of multiple dynamic comprehensive facets that include but are not limited to consistent training, auditing, discipline, job safety analysis, and I&I field

criteria that may show specific insulating goods application; they also demonstrate and reinforce the I&I concepts that an end user of I&I best practices would show the desired behavior on the job.

Guidelines for identifying a “Best Practice”:

1. Is this feasible for line workers to perform?
2. Is this currently being done in the industry?
3. Could this be implemented?
4. Can all partners comply with this best practice?

Best Practices: Qualified Observer

SUBJECT: QUALIFIED OBSERVER

PRACTICE STATEMENT: Identify and utilize qualified observer for critical tasks.

PRACTICE DESCRIPTION: A member of the crew shall be identified to act as an observer to ensure clearances are maintained, PPE, and effective cover-up is installed. The observer shall be capable of identifying nominal voltages, energized components, minimum approach distances, and proper safe work practices while crewmembers are working on energized lines.

- A. The term “effective cover up” is used to describe the installation of phase-to-phase rated insulating protective cover on energized conductors and/or equipment of different potentials when the lineman is within reaching distance or in areas extended by handling conductive objects.
- B. The term “extended reach” is used to describe being within five feet of energized conductors and/or equipment or having a conductive object within five feet of energized conductors and/or equipment.

BENEFITS:

- Eliminate injuries from unrecognized hazards or changes in conditions.
- Clarify duties and provides guidance as to when observers are beneficial.
- Provides guidance on observer qualifications.

NOTE: This section is not intended to mandate staffing requirements.



Qualified Observer: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What qualifications does the Qualified Observer need?
 - The observer shall be capable of identifying nominal voltages, energized components, minimum approach distances, and proper safe work practices while crewmembers are working on energized lines, give warning, and be able to initiate the emergency action plan.
2. Is a Qualified Observer needed for every task?
 - No, only during critical tasks as defined in the job briefing process.
3. Who may be a Qualified Observer?
 - Anyone crew member who meets the criteria of a qualified observer.
4. While personnel are performing critical tasks that would require a Qualified Observer, can the Qualified Observer have other duties?
 - No. While performing the functions of a qualified observer, the qualified observer shall not perform other tasks.

The information provided in the Best Practices section was provided by the Electrical Transmission and Distribution Partnership. For more information on “Best Practices”, please visit www.powerlinesafety.org.

Safety Alliance Updates

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