Safety & Training Source

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INDIANA MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

DECADES OF EXPERIENCE

DEVOTED TO YOUR SAFETY.

A monthly resource for members of IMEA's Safety, Education & Training program.

November 2018

Best Practices for Lineman Safety

- **Administrative Controls** -In order to address injuries due to improper job planning and risk assessment, this best practice requires pre-planning to begin at the pre-bid meeting and preliminary job site analysis to include the gathering of all relevant information needed to make a full risk assessment.
- **Pre-use inspection of rubber protective equipment-** To avoid injuries due to worn, damaged or contaminated insulating equipment, all uniform components are to be inspected prior to use and removed from service if any defect is found.
- **Job Briefings -** Held at the project location at the beginning of each work shift, as work tasks or conditions change, and as additional personnel arrive on the job site, this best practice provides a standard methodology for sharing key information including hazards, protective equipment to be used, emergency response information and more.

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From the Desk of Duane Richardson

SAFETY LINGO

Job Hazard Assessments, Safe Work Procedure and Safe Work Practices.

What do they mean? Are they basically the same thing? Are we safer because of them?

Job Hazard Assessments: A JHA is the act of getting a group of qualified individuals (supervisors, senior employees, safety personnel) together to; Observe a task being performed, Identify the potential hazards for each step in the task, assess the risk potential and severity of each hazard and Brainstorm appropriate controls according to the risk levels identified.

Safe Work Practice: A safe work practice is more of a guideline helpful in performing non-standard activities in as safe a way as possible **and** are commonly found in owner's manuals **and** industry guides.

Safe Work Procedure: Safe Work Procedures are detailed step-by-step descriptions of how specific work-related activities (usually ones with associated high-risk hazards) are safely performed from start to finish. The procedure may be simply a series of steps, or a checklist where each step is checked off when completed.

My answers: in many ways they are the same thing; however, they represent different stages on a timeline. Job Hazard Assessments are the process, and a Safe Work Practice or a Safe Work Procedure is the outcome and yes, we are safer if we employ the findings and outcomes correctly and understand that we have to account for the human factor; employees states of mind and errors.

IMEA CALENDAR

November

29 IMEA Board of Director Meeting (Mitchell Fish Market)

December

20 IMEA Board of Director Meeting

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- **Qualified Observer -** Injuries caused by unrecognized hazards and changes in work conditions can be offset or eliminated by the use of a qualified observer. These well-informed crew members ensure clearances are maintained, proper equipment is used, and effective cover-up is installed. This best practice also outlines the criteria of a qualified observer.
- **Insulate and isolate safety performance check -** To ensure compliance with Isolate and Insulate procedures, this best practice requires a safety review process that includes assurances that company safety rules and proper cover-up procedures are being followed.
- **Cradle-to-cradle use of insulating rubber gloves and sleeves -** Insulated gloves and sleeves are proven methods for reducing electrical contact injuries and fatalities. This best practice details the use of such PPE including when it is to be used and the requirements for the gloves and sleeves utilized while working from an aerial platform.
- **Lock-to-lock use of insulating rubber gloves and sleeves-** As with the cradle-to-cradle use of insulated gloves and sleeves, the same equipment used while working on pad mounted equipment from prior to unlocking until relocking has been proven to reduce electrical contact injuries and fatalities.
- **Insulate and isolate for the live line tool method on distribution lines -** When working on energized lines, it's critical that workers are qualified and using proper equipment from insulated gloves and sleeves to rubber blankets, line hose, hoods and more. Moreover, remaining physically separated, electrically and mechanically, from the lines and at a safe perimeter to avoid the effects of induction can eliminate contact and electric arc flash injuries.
- **Rubber insulating PPE for the live line tool method on distribution lines -** Specific to workers utilizing the "live line tool work method" or "hot sticking," this best practice details the use of purpose-built insulating tools to avoid direct contact with energized equipment.

By communicating these best practices proactively and consistently, our industry will continue to see a trend of decreasing injuries as safety efforts that once were novel become the norm. Effective, trained, empowered leadership will deepen those efforts, which bringing us to our training programs.

- **Safety at heights — lattice towers -** When working on lattice structures, it is critical that fall hazards are assessed including a full identification of the tasks to be performed as well as suitable anchorage points for those tasks; that proper 100% Fall Protection Equipment from ascent to descent and throughout the job is utilized; and that recue procedures are proactively addressed.
- **Safety at heights — wood poles -** This best practice outlines the use of 100% fall protection equipment from ascending to descending and all points between such that an employee cannot fall more than two feet. It is also important that each structure be inspected prior to climbing and that rescue procedures are proactively addressed.
- **Insulate and isolate techniques for the rubber glove method -** Through the use of protective equipment and appropriate I&I procedures, this best practice ensures the safety of qualified line workers using the rubber glove method while working on energized lines and equipment.
- **Rubber insulating PPE — for live line tool method on distribution lines -** Addressing the safety of power-line workers using the "live line tool work method" or "hot sticking," maintaining a minimum approach distance (M.A.D.) will prevent electrical contact injuries and fatalities. This best practice also details when it is safe for a worker to remove rubber insulating gloves and sleeves.
- **Information transfer -** Not all hazards are anticipated. By sharing information between Contractors and Host Employers, we can ensure that the most up-to-date information about a work site is known to all who might come into contact with it.

Spectrum ENGINEERING CORPORATION