



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Rubber Glove Inspection Safety Message

Rubber gloves are vulnerable to cuts, abrasions, and punctures that can put linemen at risk. Electrical currents can get to the hand if there is even a small puncture in the glove. Because of this, OSHA requires electrical insulating gloves to be inspected carefully for damage, swelling, and defects before each use.

Follow these steps to inspect your electrical gloves according to ASTM standards:

- Start by rolling the rubber of the base of the gloves between your hands. Check both the outside and inside of the glove for any possible damage or defects.
- If you notice something suspicious when rolling the rubber gloves between your hands, you should do a closer inspection of the area by pinching and rolling the gloves between your fingers.
- Check the base and tips of the fingers and thumb. Pull each finger apart and look for damage or irregularities between the fingers.

After the visual inspection, you must do an inflation test to check for air leaks. Inflation tests can be done manually or with a glove inflator. If you notice an air leak, the glove must be immediately taken out of service, destroyed, and thrown away. Gloves that have swelling which is usually a sign of chemical contamination should be taken out of service to be cleaned and retested.