



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members

Guy Wire Safety Message

OSHA has recently investigated several fatality cases where employees were killed when working on guy wires that contacted an energized line. In some of these cases, OSHA investigations revealed the guy wires were not grounded and had insulators positioned incorrectly. Some insulators were placed too high up above energized lines.

Guy wire energization hazard can be controlled by either installing insulators, or effectively grounding guy wires or both. If employees are working on existing guy wires which are neither grounded, nor have properly placed insulators, then the employees must use properly rated (for the voltage involved) electrical protective equipment.

OSHA recommends employers follow relevant guidelines in consensus standards, such as the National Electrical Safety Code (IEEE, NESC-C2), which recommends ungrounded guy wires have insulators installed to prevent electric current from traveling down the guy wire to below 8-feet (2.44 m) above the ground Level.

