



Toolbox Talk

Electrical Hazards: Hot Line Work

The following suggested safe work practices are not intended to be all inclusive. They represent common sense procedures suggested by the NESC (National Electrical Safety Code), Chugach Electric (electrical utility) and the APPA (American Public Power Association).

- Prior to the start of any hot line work, obtain a hot line clearance from the power authority of the system with which you are working. This will assure any automatic reclosing devices have been disarmed in the event of a fault
- Begin all hot line work with a tailboard meeting; involve all personnel, including ground men
- A tailboard meeting should discuss all recognized and potential hazards with the operation
- A tailboard meeting should discuss step-by-step job procedures and indicate individual responsibilities
- Lay out all hot line tools, guards, gloves, etc., on a tarp. This will ensure that you have all the proper tools before you start the operation
- Clean all hot line equipment before and after each job and store properly to avoid damage
- Once work begins, either by means of aerial bucket or climbing the pole, evaluate the situation and ensure the operation can be performed as discussed on the ground
- Ensure all work can be performed from below rather than above the energized parts
- Ensure employees are isolated or insulated from all energized parts, from ground and grounded structures and potentially energized parts other than the one being worked on
- Persons receiving messages concerning the switching of lines and equipment or issuance of orders pertaining to the hot line work in which they are involved will repeat back to the sender all orders and secure the identity of the sender

