



BEST PRACTICE

SUBJECT: Rubber Insulating PPE for the Live Line Tool Method on Distribution Lines

PRACTICE STATEMENT: USE OF RUBBER INSULATING GLOVES AND SLEEVES WHILE PERFORMING DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE TASKS VIA THE LIVE LINE TOOL METHOD.

PRACTICE DESCRIPTION:

A. When working primary voltages aloft:

For the purpose of this document M.A.D. is defined as the Minimum Approach Distance defined by applicable Federal, State or Local regulation. M.A.D. may also be known as “Primary Contact Zone”, “Minimum Working Distance”, “Within Reach”, “Extended Reach”, etc.

This Best Practice only applies to those applications where power-line workers are utilizing the “live line tool work method” aka – “hot sticking.” Workers using the “live line tool work method” (“hot sticking”) use insulating tools designed and intended for use while working on energized equipment and/or conductors. Workers using the “live line tool work method” are not permitted to make direct contact with energized equipment and/or conductors with their hands and are not permitted to be in a position where the worker can reach into, extend any conductive object into, or extend any other part of the body into the M.A.D. as prescribed in applicable Federal, State and Local Regulatory Standards.

It is not intended nor required that the Strategic Partnership *Cradle-to-Cradle Rubber Glove Work Method Best Practice* be applicable when power-line workers are using the “live line tool work method”. The *Cradle-to-Cradle Rubber Glove Work Method Best Practice* applies only when work is to be done utilizing the “rubber glove work method”. When a task requires the worker to reach into, extend any conductive object into, or extend any other part of the body into M.A.D. while using the “live line tool work method,” the use of rubber insulating gloves and/or rubber insulating gloves and sleeves rated the voltage are required to be used as described in this Best Practice”.

Donning of such PPE shall be done in a safe location so that M.A.D. requirements are not violated. This may include repositioning of the aerial lift to its cradled position. It should be noted however, incident investigations have revealed M.A.D. violations have occurred during “live line tool work method” operations. The intent of this Best Practice is to eliminate both M.A.D. encroachment violations and subsequent injuries.

Approved June 3, 2008

Effective Date: December 31, 2008

Live Line Tool Method

1. Rubber insulating gloves and sleeves are not required when working from a position where the worker cannot reach into, extend any conductive object into, or extend any other part of the body into the M.A.D. while using fiberglass insulating live line tools ("hot stick" method).
2. Before getting into a position where the worker can reach into, extend any conductive object into, or extend any other part of the body into the M.A.D., approved protective equipment shall be used to insulate and/or isolate energized conductors and/or parts.
3. Rubber insulating gloves shall be worn when tasks require the worker to reach into, extend any conductive object into, or extend any other part of the body into the M.A.D. when there is no upper arm exposure, even when proper cover is utilized.
4. Insulating rubber gloves and sleeves shall be worn when tasks require the worker be in a position where the worker can reach into, extend any conductive object into, or extend any other part of the body into the M.A.D. when all the above precautions have been taken and upper arm exposure still exists.

BENEFITS:

- Provides specific use requirements that are proven methods for reducing electrical contact injuries and fatalities.
- Provides for uniform use guidelines that can be applied industry wide.

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Frequently Asked Questions
Rubber Insulated PPE and the Live Line Tool Method

FAQ: When operating GOAB switches from the ground do I need gloves and sleeves?

A: No, just rubber insulating gloves are required.

FAQ: What is “upper arm” exposure?

A: When working within reach or the extended reach of the M.A.D. of energized conductors or parts, the area on the arms not protected by rubber insulating gloves that would be covered by rubber insulating sleeves.

FAQ: I’m wearing rubber insulating gloves and the conductor is covered, do I need rubber insulating sleeves?

A: No, if no upper arm exposure. Yes, if upper arm exposure exists.

Insulating rubber gloves and sleeves shall be worn when tasks require the worker to enter the M.A.D. and there is the potential of upper arm exposure regardless of the whether the conductors and equipment are covered. Covering of conductors and equipment add an additional barrier or safe guard but is not considered the primary form of protection for the worker.

FAQ: I am performing “hot stick” work and need to encroach M.A.D. and perform a task by hand. What position do I need to be in to don my rubber insulating gloves or gloves and sleeves?

A: Performing “hot stick” work method does not require the use of rubber insulating gloves or gloves and sleeves. If during this operation a task requires the worker to enter into the M.A.D., rubber insulating gloves and/or gloves and sleeves shall be donned prior to encroaching the applicable M.A.D. The worker shall maintain or move to a safe position so not to encroach M.A.D. during the donning of the PPE.

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Rubber Insulated PPE and the Live Line Tool Method

General Use of Insulating Rubber Gloves and Sleeves

Note: Although rubber insulating gloves and sleeves are not normally required when utilizing “hot sticking” work method the following is provided for informational purposes only.

1. Insulating Rubber gloves shall never be worn inside out or without leather protectors. They shall be exchanged at any time they become damaged or the employee to whom they are assigned becomes suspicious of their condition.
2. Leather protectors or overgloves shall not be worn except over insulating rubber gloves.
3. Insulating rubber gloves and sleeves rated at the highest nominal anticipated voltage shall be worn any time required by supervision.
4. Dielectric testing dates of insulating rubber gloves and sleeves shall be current.
5. Insulating rubber gloves and sleeves shall be visually inspected and gloves shall be air tested before each use.