



In Conjunction with the OSHA Alliance

### OSHA Alliance News

The L.E. Myers Co. achieved STAR status in September 2008 for work performed for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) across multiple states. This is the highest VPP recognition level awarded by OSHA for workplace safety and health. Regional OSHA officials participated in the presentation of the award to The L.E. Myers Co. in Chattanooga, Tennessee. "I am proud to recognize MYR Group as the first Mobile Workforce VPP participant in Region IV," said Cindy Coe, Region IV Administrator at OSHA.

"This further demonstrates how the employer, their employees and OSHA working together, can improve safety and health in the workplace. By reducing injuries and illnesses, the company is more profitable and employees are more productive. It's a true win/win accomplishment!" MYR's subsidiary, Sturgeon Electric Company, Inc. received VPP STAR Status in August 2008 for its Colorado Transmission and Distribution Division and Commercial and Industrial Division. Management at MYR sets safety as

a core value and feels that it's safety programs are among the best in the industry. In August 2004, MYR, with other electrical transmission and distribution construction contractors and trade associations, formed a national OSHA Strategic Partnership (OSP). The training courses and best practices implemented through the OSP have contributed to improved safety and health throughout the company. The MYR Group now has expanded its sights on Myers Florida Division to achieve VPP Status.

#### Important Dates:

February 18, 2009 Alliance meeting

May 6, 2009 Alliance meeting

August 19, 2009 Alliance meeting

November 10, 2009 Alliance meeting

Front Row (left to right):  
Unknown, Lakes Brendle,  
Unknown, Slater Smith,  
Mike Gass, Ann Coln,  
Dan Gothard, Harley  
Bryant, Raburn Coln, Jere  
Smith

Back Row (left to right):  
Paull Linn, Granville  
Stewart, Gerald Tinney,  
Ben Buchanan, Greg  
Knight, Monty Steele,  
Scotty Cumberland, Gary  
Jones, William Crosswhite,



## *Alliance Annual Report*

### **Overview**

- OSHA, SLCC/NECA, IBEW, and SELCAT work cooperatively to provide workers and others with information, guidance, and access to training resources that will help them protect employees' health and safety, particularly in reducing and preventing exposure to electrical transmission and distribution equipment hazards.

### **Implementation Team Membership and Contributors**

- Representatives from OSHA, SLCC/NECA, IBEW, and SELCAT conducted effective meetings on – March 19, 2008, August 20, 2008, and November 12, 2008.

### **Evaluation Period**

- December 20, 2007, through December 20, 2008

### **Training and Education**

- SELCAT has continued it's effort to the development of training and education programs for employees focusing on safety and health issues related to the electrical utility industry. A detailed list of the training courses conducted and the number of personnel trained are illustrated in the tables on page three. Course topics included grounding, OSHA 10-hour training course, supervisory training, OSHA Power Transmission and Distribution Standard and others. However, these tables only reflect the personnel trained by SELCAT.

### **Outreach and Communication**

- On January 27, 2008, Steve Gaines and Virgil Melton made a presentation about the Alliance to 28 apprentices attending the SELCAT FTS School.
- On March 12, 2008, Steve Gaines and Virgil Melton made a presentation about the Alliance to 28 apprentices attending the SELCAT FTS School.
- On April 21, 2008, Steve Gaines and Virgil Melton made a presentation about the Alliance to 28 apprentices attending the SELCAT FTS School.
- On May 19, 2008, Steve Gaines and Virgil Melton made a presentation about the Alliance to 28 apprentices attending the SELCAT FTS School.
- On June 25, 2008, Steve Gaines made a presentation about the Alliance to 85 participants at the IBEW Tenth District Progress Meeting in Charleston, SC.
- On October 22, 2008, Steve Gaines and Virgil Melton made a presentation about the Alliance to 28 apprentices attending the SELCAT FTS School.
- On December 15, 2008, Steve Gaines made a presentation about the Alliance to 28 apprentices attending the SELCAT FTS School.



*Alliance Annual Report Cont'd***Products**

- In 2008, the Alliance document was posted on the Southeastern Line Constructors Chapter, NECA website ([www.slccneca.org](http://www.slccneca.org)) to promote the cooperative agreement.
- In 2008, the group continued to effectively promote the near-miss reporting system. This system enables participating employers and workers to share injury data and near-miss information, in an attempt to prevent the reoccurrence of a similar incident. The system is available to employees and member companies on the chapter website.
- In 2008, the group continued to effectively promote the best practices. This system enables participating employers and workers to share best practices.
- During this period, the group continued to publish and distribute the Safety Alliance Update Quarterly Newsletter. The Safety Alliance Update Quarterly Newsletter reaches over 2,000 employees and companies.

*Promoting the National Dialogue on Workplace Safety and Health*

**Events**

- During this period, the MYR Group, an Alliance participant, received a VPP onsite evaluation for participation in the VPP Mobile Worksite Program. The onsite evaluation was conducted April 30 through May 1, 2008. The MYR Group was formally approved for participation in VPP in September 2008.

**Results**

The tables below reflect the training accomplished by SELCAT during 2008:

<b>SELCAT Training in 2008</b>					
<b>Course</b>	<b>Apprentice Trained</b>	<b>Ground-men Trained</b>	<b>Journeymen Trained</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
OSHA 10-hour	158	9	6	8	181
First-Aid	162	22	37	34	255
CPR	246	22	37	34	339
Bucket Truck Rescue	96	2	0	0	104
Pole Top Rescue	101	0	0	0	101
Transformers (safety) -1	101	0	0	0	101
Transformers (safety) - 2	81	0	5	0	86
				<b>Total Trained: 1,167</b>	

## *Alliance Annual Report Cont'd*

<b>Alliance Outreach Impact</b>	
Organization/ Group	Impact
IBEW Members	2,000
IBEW Local's	115
NECA Contractors	100
SELCAT Apprentice	196
SELCAT Training	1,301
IBEW Tenth District Progress Meeting	85
<b>Distribution of Alliance Quarterly Newsletter</b>	2,000
	<b>Total Reached: 5,797</b>

### Upcoming Milestones in FY 2008

- Continue to promote the Alliance near-miss and best practices reporting systems.
- Promote the OSHA Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) to interested member companies in the Alliance.
- Explore participation in the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA) Career Expo in April 2009.
- Develop schedule for Implementation Team Meetings in FY 2009.

## Safety Alliance Updates

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## ***BEST PRACTICE: CRADLE-TO-CRADLE USE OF INSULATING RUBBER GLOVES AND SLEEVES***

**PRACTICE STATEMENT:** Protocols related to effective use of insulating rubber gloves and sleeves.

### **PRACTICE DESCRIPTION**

1. When employees are working on energized circuits or equipment using the rubber glove method, rubber protective-insulating gloves and sleeves rated for the exposure of the highest nominal voltage shall be worn cradle-to-cradle when working from an aerial platform.
  - a. Rubber protective insulating sleeves are not required when employees are working circuits with a potential of 600 volts or less if there is no upper arm exposure and the worker will not encroach the 5-foot primary zone.
  - b. The term “effective cover up” is used to describe the installation of phase-to-phase rated insulating protective cover on energized conductors and/or equipment of different potentials when the lineman is within reaching distance or in areas extended by handling conductive objects.
  - c. The term “extended reach” is used to describe being within five feet of energized conductors and/or equipment or having a conductive object within five feet of energized conductors and/or equipment.
2. Electrical class rating of the insulating rubber sleeves shall meet or exceed the electrical class rating of the insulating rubber gloves when working on primary conductors.
3. Company policies shall apply when the above conditions cannot be met. Alternative work methods ensuring worker safety shall be identified, communicated to all affected workers, implemented and documented as part of the Job Briefing process.

### **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. (Approved August 2006)

## ***Cradle to Cradle Gloves & Sleeves: Frequently Asked Questions***

1. Can I swing the bucket out of the energized zone and remove Gloves and Sleeves in order to smoke, dip, etc.?
  - The bucket must be repositioned to the cradle or lowered to its lowest possible elevation before gloves and sleeves may be removed.
2. Are there examples when gloves and sleeves are required, when working in a bucket (cradle to cradle) when can I remove rubber gloves and sleeves while in the bucket?
  - When the bucket has been repositioned to the cradle or lowered to its lowest possible elevation.
  - When the circuit has been deenergized, grounded and an EPZ has been established.
  - Refer to company policies for specific work procedures.
3. When ascending to perform work on a transmission line with energized under build, do I need gloves and sleeves while moving past the energized under build?