



# Safety Alliance Updates

In Conjunction with the OSHA Alliance

## OSHA Alliance Newsletter Feedback

The first "Safety Alliance Updates" newsletter went out in June of this year. Already, the publication has received some exciting and encouraging feedback, ranging from men in the field to presidents of companies. Most of the feedback has been in support of the newsletter, commenting on sections such as the "Near Miss Report" and its value to those who have reviewed it. "We are all for safety and appreciate any available tool that we can use to educate our workforce," stated Buster Sylar of Marable-Pirkle Services, Inc.

In the future, the partners of the Alliance will be striving to incorporate the "Safety Alliance Updates" newsletter as a prominent source for safety information and best practices. Contractors, union representatives, and employees can assist us in this effort by continuing to submit "Near Miss Reports", which can be found on the Southeastern Line Chapter website ([www.slccneca.org](http://www.slccneca.org)). Another way members can participate is by submitting information, questions, and topics for future newsletter to the Southeastern Line Chapter Office.

Please remember that all information submitted to the Alliance is kept anonymous and used only for the purpose of continuing safety education.

"Whether an electrical worker, a contractor or a government regulator, we all share a common vision, of making safety in the workplace paramount in importance. All of us in the partnership are committed to giving electrical workers safer, healthier jobsites."

- E. Milner Irvin  
NECA President

### Important Dates:

- November 14th**  
OSHA Alliance Meeting
- November 22nd**  
Thanksgiving Day
- March 19th**  
OSHA Alliance Meeting

## The OSHA Transmission & Distribution Partnership



### History of the Partnership

The OSHA Transmission & Distribution Partnership began in August 2004 with six members. Additional line constructors joined over time, and the Partnership was

renewed and expanded in 2006. Today, the OSHA Transmission & Distribution Partnership covers an estimated 80 percent of total workers in the line construction industry.

### About the Partnership

The OSHA Transmission & Distribution Partnership is a formal collaboration of industry stakeholders working together to improve safety for workers in the electric line construction industry. It is one of only six national partnerships between employers and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

### Partnership Goals:

1. Analyze accident and incident data to identify common causes for fatalities, injuries, and illnesses suffered by linemen, apprentices, and other appropriate job classifications.

2. Develop recommended Best Practices for each identified cause.
3. Develop implementation strategies for each Best Practice and share these strategies among the partners.
4. Identify training criteria for foremen, general foremen, supervisors, linemen, and apprentices, including training to promote industry culture change to place value on safety and health.

For more information on the OSHA Transmission & Distribution Partnership, visit us on the web at [www.powerlinesafety.org](http://www.powerlinesafety.org).

## *Urgent Hazard Alert from Salt River Project*

### *Possible Product Failure of 6 ft. Salisbury Shotgun Sticks (product #4008)*

The Fault Locating Operations (FLO) department of SRP has identified a possible manufacturing failure of the Salisbury 6 ft. live-line tool. During use, the external operating rod separated from its connection to the coupler. This failure allowed the entire working section to separate from the tool. SRP recommends that each crew remove these live-line tools from service immediately and inspect all live tools, regardless of manufacturer, to ensure the external rod is securely fastened to the coupling of the hand grip.



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Rod section marked "A" above separated from the coupling marked "B" above. The product specification sheet from Salisbury indicates that a pin should have been installed in the coupling (B) to hold the rod in place.

## *Feedback Prevention During Storm Restoration Work*

Preventing Electrocutions by undetected feedback that electrical energy presents in power lines.

Storm restoration work presents many additional hazards that workers do not face when doing routine work. One of the most dangerous situations is back feed from customer generators. Employees are cautioned that undetected feedback electrical energy in power lines is a constant hazard. One reason linemen are injured or killed by electrical back feed is their failure to test for voltage and install grounds on secondary circuits. Grounding secondary conductors provides protection in case a generator is placed in service without their knowledge while they are working on the system. Most linemen feel they are protected when they have the primary conductors grounded but many times the fused cutout at a transformer will be open preventing back feed to the primary conductors but the high side of the transformer will be energized at primary voltage.

During storm restoration work all crew members must be alert to the sounds of generators running and a qualified worker must check homes that have gen-

erators to be sure the home owner has isolated the home's electrical system from the utility's service conductors.

Properly sized and installed safety protective grounding systems (SPGS) are installed on de-energized lines and equipment to provide protection to workers against the following conditions:

- Customer generation and back feed
- Energized through a switching error due to miscommunication or unsafe work practice
- Induced voltage by magnetic induction from adjacent, or parallel energized lines
- Contact with an energized line of another circuit caused by accident or equipment failure
- Lightning

Remember, an improperly sized or installed SPG system that does not provide a low resistance path to ground for fault current may not operate the line protective device creating a dangerous condition for employees and equipment.

## *Safety Alliance Updates*

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