



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Circuit Breaker - Non- Reclose or 1 Shot Safety Message

So when does OSHA require that we place a circuit on non-reclose? Many utilities have been operating under the assumption that non-reclose is not required if we are working behind fuses.

It is a mistake to assume a lateral fuse negates the need for a one-shot on the feeder.. All you need to do is look at your breaker relay curves and lateral fuse curves to see that a breaker will trip and reclose on instantaneous before many lateral fuses will clear. An instantaneous trip and reclose could be anywhere from 4 to 12 cycles but will seem like a lifetime at 30,000 degrees. Non-reclose limits the duration and thus the exposure.

The other mistake is to assume customer convenience is more important than lineworker safety. Many utilities are concerned that a non-reclose might cause an outage if some other part of the circuit has a tree branch strike a lockout feeder, so they want to limit non-reclose use. We must be very careful to judge the relative difficulty and hazards associated with live-line work in comparison to the needs of the users on the circuit.

Following is a reference from the National Electrical Safety Code that the nature of the work typically determines when non-reclose is used.

Non-reclose is used most often on distribution when:

- Pulling conductors near or over/under live circuits.
- Transferring dead-ends or moving conductors.
- Gloving distribution.
- Replacing insulators.
- Climbing above distribution.
- Maching out jumpers and removing or installing jumpers.
- Setting poles in conductor.
- Climbing and working on distribution.