



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Wood Pole Inspection and Testing Safety Message

Even before OSHA created 29 CFR 1910.269 Appendix D, "Methods of Inspecting and Testing Wood Poles," it seems likely that pole inspection was a rule of thumb for many field employees. After all, they set poles and repeatedly climbed them to handle upgrades, maintenance, wood rot and decay.

In the last few years, there have been several tragic events due to rotten wood poles falling or otherwise collapsing. The root cause of these events was failure to properly inspect and test the poles prior to climbing or changing tension. It is a disturbing reality to know that skilled and qualified climbers like us would forgo a basic safety procedure such as this one.

Remember that poles should be inspected not only prior to climbing, but also when working out of a manlift device or while using a digger derrick boom. If tension must be changed, consider how it will affect the pole and if the pole will be able to handle the change in tension.

OSHA 1910.269 Appendix D: Methods of Inspecting and Testing Wood Poles

Proper Backfill: The last 18" of fill should be soil and not gravel...