

If It's NOT Grounded It's NOT Dead!

A popular saying in our industry yet several people die each year because they get complacent and *ASSUME* the line is dead.

Last month an accident took place that serves as a horrible reminder to us all. Some of you even knew Harold Ming from Sheridan Electric Cooperative, Inc. Always treat the line as if it's energized until you test it with your TIC tracer. Always get a visual open on a line when feasible and then ground it on both sides of your work area. NEVER sway from safety protocol. There's another saying in this industry and that is that there is no eraser on a Lineman's pencil. That means you don't get a second chance. High voltage electricity is invisible and may look harmless but thousands are maimed and killed each year that dare assume it's safe.

Another Lineman Wade Sukut, was killed very recently at McCone Electric Cooperative, Inc. This is yet another grim reminder that we can't make mistakes when it comes to safety. Two human lives that remind us that we have to always be safe, ALWAYS!

High voltage electricity is a powerful force to be reckoned with. If you make a mistake around it, you may not live to tell the story.

No matter the situation or what you've been told... ALWAYS test, de-energize, and ground the line on both sides. You'll be around for a very long time.

Bottom line is: This industry is as safe as YOU make it. Don't ever let your guard down.

“SAFETY ALWAYS, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME”.