

The purpose of this reminder is to establish that our daily routine work days that we encounter are full of invisible hazards. Two seasoned linemen have been killed and another severely injured in two electric cooperatives that we know very well and work for.

Despite these facts, it has come to our attention that risks are still being taken. Unnecessary risks that we all know about, train on, and have developed safety standards.

Always wear your personal protective equipment (PP&E). What good are your safety glasses sitting on the dash of the pickup? What good are your rubber sleeves in your glove bag when you're doing hot work? Our companies have a **GROUND TO GROUND rubber glove and sleeve policy**. It is located in your crew safety books. Its policy because a former employee had a freak accident that burned him – and by the laws of electricity, it made us all wonder how it happened to this day. If this former employee employed our ground to ground rubber glove and sleeve policy, he would more than likely still be working with us today. Wear your rubber gloves, Fire Resistant (FR) shirts, eye protection, hard hats, and other protective gear when climbing hot poles, poles that are employing hot arms or working hot out of a bucket truck. If you don't have the proper PP&E, don't do the job! It's not worth your life!

If you need FR shirts, rubber gloves, leather protectors, or any other safety equipment, contact me and I will get them to you. We supply them for your protection.

Be professional and do the right thing "always". If someone comes around asking who's responsible for safety, everyone should raise their hand instead of pointing to me. Safety has to exist at and on the crew level. Everyone needs to remind each other to put a seat belt on or fill out a log book, or put your safety shades on. It's called looking out for each other and not looking the other way. If you're doing things different because the General Manager or the Safety guy is near, you may want to re-consider your work practices and do them right all the time. Remember that poem? It was on our web site for a while. It went like this:

I Chose to Look The Other Way

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
It wasn't that I didn't care,
I had the time, and I was there.

But I didn't want to seem a fool,
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he'd done the job before,
If I spoke up, he might get sore.

The chances didn't seem that bad,
I'd done the same, He knew I had.
So I shook my head and walked on by,
He knew the risks as well as I.

He took the chance, I closed an eye,
And with that act, I let him die.
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

Now every time I see his wife,
I'll know, I should have saved his life.
That guilt is something I must bear,
But it isn't something you need share.

If you see a risk that others take,
That puts their health or life at stake.
The question asked, or thing you say,
Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,
Then hope you never have to say,
I could have saved a life that day,
But **I chose**, to look the other way.

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Wear your rubber gloves
Wear your sleeves
Wear your FR shirts
On any hot pole, poles with hot arms
...or doing hot work from a bucket truck
Wear your safety glasses
Wear your hard hats
Wear your fall harnesses and Lanyards
Be professional
Wear your seat belts
Look out for each other
Take responsibility for Safety
Don't look the other way

