

Safe Work Practices

Title: Use of Rated Mechanical Jumpers	Reference: SWP-5.08	Revision:
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1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for distribution operating personnel in the practice of using and installing mechanical jumpers.

2.0 GENERAL

- 2.1 Used for bypassing work areas when equipment is under repair.
- 2.2 Also, used for upgrading lines and making temporary or emergency repairs.
- 2.3 Jumper clamps feature “floating-washer” design and high-impact polyethylene handles with wide handguard flange.
- 2.4 Mechanical jumpers are rated and tested equipment. It is not permissible to fabricate “homemade” jumpers.

3.0 SAFETY

- 3.1 The appropriately rated rubber gloves and sleeves must be worn when installing or removing mechanical jumpers.
- 3.2 Intentional contact with an energized jumper is not allowed. The jumper is designed for accidental or incidental contact only.
- 3.3 Mechanical jumpers must be inspected before use.
- 3.4 Jumpers shall not be used to pick up or disconnect load.
- 3.5 When installed over an arm, on or against a pole, or any other path to ground or of a different potential other than to what the jumper is attached, a second barrier of cover must be installed.

4.0 PROCEDURE

- 4.1 A jumper shall be installed if it is necessary to cut the ground or neutral conductor when working on energized conductors or equipment.
- 4.2 Conductors should be brushed before the installation of the jumper clamps.

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4.3 If only one line worker is in the air and it is necessary to install a mechanical jumper, the use of an insulated jumper hanger (aka: “parrot stand”, “third hand”) should be used.

- 4.3.1 Attach the hanger onto the conductor at a point where connection of one end of the jumper is desired.
- 4.3.2 Attach the jumper to the hanger. This insulates the jumper from becoming energized.
- 4.3.3 Attach the opposite end of the jumper to the conductor or equipment. This step will energize the jumper back to the hanger.
- 4.3.4 Finally, remove the jumper from the hanger and attach to the conductor, completing the connections.

This frees the line worker from handling two energized ends of the jumper at the same time, relocating the jumper to the opposite end while energized, and the hazards of controlling the loose energized end of the jumper.

4.4 Never place the end of an energized mechanical jumper inside or against the bucket.

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