Care and Use of Rubber Gloves

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to manage the care and use of rubber gloves.

2.0 Scope

This procedure applies to all Newfoundland Power employees and contractors acting on behalf of the Company.

3.0 General

Newfoundland Power has established a program for the maintenance and testing of high voltage rubber gloves to ensure all electrical workers are protected. Contractors are responsible to have their high voltage rubber gloves tested in accordance with this procedure.

4.0 Responsibilities

4.1 Directors shall ensure that Newfoundland Power employees, and contractors acting on behalf of the Company, follow these procedures.

5.0 Description of Activity

5.1 Most electrical contact accidents can be prevented by the simple practice of wearing rubber gloves at all times while within reach of conductors or equipment that are, or might become, energized.

5.2 Workers who are required to wear rubber gloves shall be trained in the appropriate class selection and the care and use of rubber gloves and protectors.
5.3 Rubber gloves shall be dielectrically tested by an approved proof voltage test as prescribed by Company standards.

5.4 All rubber gloves shall be marked with a legible re-test date and shall never be used beyond this date.

5.4.1 Rubber Glove Re-Test Cycle

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5.5 Appropriately rated rubber gloves shall be worn during the following operations or conditions:

5.5.1 When working directly on circuits energized up to 25,000 volts – refer to OPR106.08 – Minimum Protection for Work on Different Voltages.

5.5.2 In proximity to live circuits to 25,000 volts where the minimum approach distance could be accidentally encroached upon with the hands – refer to OPR106.07 – Minimum Approach Distances to Energized Equipment.

5.5.3 When using hot line tools under conditions where moisture or contaminants could compromise the dielectric integrity of the tool – refer to OPR106.06 – Selection, Care and Use of Hotline Tools.
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5.5.4 When stringing and sagging conductors in the proximity of energized circuits or working near circuits that are energized.

5.5.5 When controlling poles in the proximity of energized circuits.

5.5.6 When connecting or disconnecting grounds of transformers and other energized electrical equipment.

5.5.7 When cutting neutral conductors – refer to OPR106.10 – Working on Live Lines and Equipment.

5.5.8 When manually operating gang operated switches.

5.5.9 When extending or repairing ground grids – refer to OPR 2100.01 Extending or Repairing Ground Grids.

5.5.10 Prior to opening padmount transformers and when working on underground systems – refer to OPR109.03 – Underground Residential Distribution.

5.5.11 In addition to the above, rubber gloves shall be worn any time the person in charge considers it necessary.

5.6 When work is performed on live primary lines through 25kV, rubber gloves shall be put on before leaving the ground and shall be worn continuously until after workers are outside the minimum approach distance to the voltage being worked on and are returning to the ground.

5.7 Protective covers must always be used in conjunction with rubber gloves and must never be used separately as a work glove.

5.8 To ensure both electrical integrity and maximum protection of the glove, the protective covers must be sized such that an appropriate distance from the cuff of the rubber glove and the protector is maintained in accordance with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards. A rule of thumb is 1 inch per 10 kV rating of the glove.
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5.9 Rubber will age or oxidize quickly at points of distortion. Rubber gloves must not be worn inside out or left in that condition as this will cause cracking of the rubber.

5.10 Rubber gloves shall be air tested and visually inspected by the wearer each day prior to use.

5.11 While wearing rubber gloves, workers shall avoid wearing rings or watches that may be of a size and shape to stress or damage the glove.

5.12 Rubber gloves must be exchanged when they become damaged or when the worker to whom they are assigned has reason to doubt their condition.

5.13 When not in use, rubber gloves must be stored appropriately in approved storage bags or containers and shall be shielded from sunlight, direct heat, ozone, oil, sharp objects or other substances which could damage the rubber.

5.14 When rubber gloves are tested and stored in their storage bags, they are normally dusted with powder for ease of use and comfort for workers. Some worker may develop dermatitis from the powder. If the worker is aware of any such sensitivity to powders or develops such problems from the powdered gloves they should arrange to wash, rinse and dry the rubber gloves before wearing them.

6.0 References

6.1 Reference Documents

- OPR106.06 – Selection, Care and Use of Hotline Tools
- OPR106.07 – Minimum Approach Distances to Energized Equipment
- OPR106.08 – Minimum Protection for Work on Different Voltages
- OPR106.10 – Working on Live Lines and Equipment
- OPR109.03 – Underground Residential Distribution
- OPR 2100.01 Extending or Repairing Ground Grids.
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6.2 Related Hazards

- 120

6.3 Legal and Other Requirements

- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations

7.0 Records

- No records

8.0 Glossary

- ASTM – American Society for Testing and Materials