

Whenever working atop utility poles the potential risk of electrocution and other injuries is more hazardous than usual. **Health issues may also trigger a rescue event.** Therefore, it is imperative that you are trained to work in elevated, energized environments before beginning that type of work. It is also crucial that you are properly trained to respond to emergencies and implement rescue operations.

If electrical contact is made with anyone working atop a pole, immediate rescue is necessary.

Before beginning a rescue mission, it is important to assess the situation, then radio for help. Rescue attempts are far more effective if you are fully aware of what is happening around you.

To get ready for a pole-top rescue, make sure that you have the proper equipment to keep yourself protected throughout the entire mission. After you are wearing the proper equipment and are fully protected you may begin with the operation.

In the event, the victim is conscious, reassure them that everything will be fine and then help them safely reach the ground. Once you are on the ground you can administer first aid. Make sure to monitor them for symptoms of shock.

When rescue victims are unconscious and still breathing, lower them to the ground while monitoring breathing. After you get the victim safely on the ground, administer first aid and call emergency personnel. In the event the victim is unconscious and not breathing, you may have to attempt resuscitation, prior to descending from the pole.

You can start by giving the victim two full breaths, then lowering them to the ground. After you are on the ground with the victim you may conduct Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

Following any pole-top rescue, regardless of the circumstances, victims must be taken to a doctor or a healthcare facility for a more thorough medical evaluation. Whenever you are lowering someone from a pole, do the following:

- Place hand line on cross-arm, preferably two or three feet from the pole
- Make one wrap of line. Never cross load line over fall line
- Pass hand line under armpits
- Tie three half-hitches
- Cinch line tightly around victim
- Remove slack in line
- Cut victim's safety belt
- Lower victim

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**What should you do if the victim is conscious?**

**What should you do if the victim is unconscious?**

**Whenever you are lowering someone from a pole, what should you do?**

# SAFETY TALK ATTENDANCE ROSTER



COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_ JOB/DEPT: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPICS ADDRESSED: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES:

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EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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ACTION TAKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

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Supervisor's Signature

\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Safety Coordinator's Signature

\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Date