



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GROUNDING: THINK ELECTRICALLY, NOT MECHANICALLY

Mike Bahr

OVERVIEW

Since 1994, OSHA has required grounding practices that will protect employees in the event that the line or equipment on which they are working becomes re-energized. The equipotential zone, or EPZ, is made to do just that.

OSHA requires the employer to install temporary grounds and bonds at the worksite in such a manner that keeps the worksite at the same potential and prevents harm to workers even if the line is accidentally re-energized or exposed to induced voltages.

This course will help participants understand the current rules and regulations that require the employer to assess the workplace and develop grounding practices that will protect personnel working on or near de-energized lines and equipment.

The instructor will use information from several serious accidents involving improper grounding practices to demonstrate proper methods to manage electrical hazards effectively when dealing with de-energized electrical circuits. The difference between grounding and bonding will be discussed to help attendees think electrically, not mechanically when installing personal protective grounds.

By drawing from personal experience, the instructor will answer important questions regarding Personal Protective Grounding, including, but not limited to:

- > **What regulations require personal protective grounding?**
- > **What methods are available to perform equipotential grounding?**
- > **Single phase or three phase?**
- > **Bracket or single point grounding?**
- > **What type of work exposes an employee to a reasonable likelihood that an electrical exposure could occur?**
- > **What are the hazards with working in series or parallel with the grounding system?**
- > **What are the electrical sources that may endanger the worker?**
- > **What is the equipotential zone of protection?**
- > **What is the proper method for installing and removing grounds**



LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of participating in this workshop, attendees will have a better understanding of:

- > **key definitions related to grounding,**
- > **important procedures and guidelines for grounding in various worksite conditions and situations,**
- > **how to develop a safe work plan including work practices and barriers to manage hazards**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- > **Personnel who work on or near lines and equipment that operate at more than 600 volts**
- > **Plant, facility, and electrical engineers**
- > **Foremen, supervisor and managers who supervise personnel who work on or near lines and equipment that operate at more than 600 volts**
- > **Personnel with responsibilities for NESC/OSHA compliance**
- > **Safety officers and program managers**

ABOUT MIKE BAHR



Mike Bahr has been a safety professional in the electrical utility/construction industry for over 30 years. After being injured in an electrical accident in 1985, Mike dedicated his career to the safety profession and has specialized in the area electrical safety. Mike has developed and presented an extensive body of work worldwide

and is a former principal member of the NFPA 70E committee (Electrical Safety Related Work Practices). Mike also served as the principal investigator for the development of the Department of Energy (DOE) electrical safety program.

Mike has developed a reputation for being one of the best trainers in the electric power industry

Mike has been married to his wife, Sandy, for over 40 years and is the father of 1 daughter and 3 sons, and has 4 granddaughters.

For more information or to book Mike, contact the Safety Institute:

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