

# Vehicle Barricading & Grounding

Tailgate conferences shall include the possibility of the hazards of vehicles and equipment becoming accidentally energized.

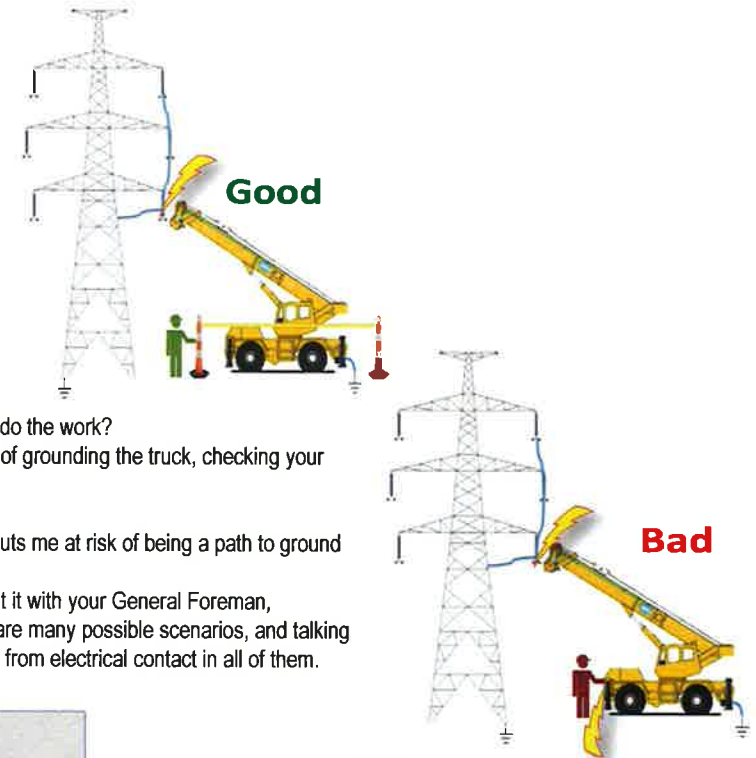


We don't want you or anyone else to become a path to the ground by touching equipment. Should the equipment contact something energized, or something energized makes contact with the equipment, you'll want a little space between the two of you.

## Why Barricade?

Aside from electrical contact, we've had crushing incidents in the past that could have been prevented by the use of a barricade. Keeping ourselves and coworkers away from crush or pinch points is an added benefit of barricading equipment.

## How to Barricade?



## Frequently Asked Questions

Q – Is this for the general public? Or are you saying that I need a reminder to not go near the truck when we're working?

A – Yes. Visual reminders aren't a bad thing. Every one of us can get focused on our individual tasks and forget where we are.

Q – Aren't you causing other hazards, like tripping on the rope barricade?

A – Feel free to order more cones and/or taller cones to keep the rope or tape off the ground.

Q – I'm in a corn field and there is nothing energized around me. Why do I need to barricade?

A – Our preference is to barricade anyway. It prevents someone from being hit by or pinned against moving equipment. We've also had crews dig into unmarked underground primary.

Q – Doesn't this take more time to set up and do the work?

A – Just make this part of your normal routine of grounding the truck, checking your outriggers, and getting your wheel chocks out.

Q – What if I can think of a scenario that still puts me at risk of being a path to ground while working near my equipment?

A – Don't keep it to yourself! Please talk about it with your General Foreman, Superintendent, or Safety Supervisor. There are many possible scenarios, and talking through them is the only way to keep you safe from electrical contact in all of them.

The Barricade is made to keep you out, but you CAN cross it.

- Establish **verbal communication** with the person operating the controls.
- Ensure the equipment and/or load is **not within the MAD plus 5 feet.**
- Ensure the operator's **hands are off the controls** and will remain off and all energized work is stopped while the employee is in the barrier zone.
- **Use ground mats or insulated mats** to extend or limit the areas of the equipment's potential.

*From the Policy:* Grounding of the vehicles/equipment is required at all times when the boom, vehicle, equipment, load, etc. are at the same level or above the conductors/parts/apparatus or other potential sources of electricity 50 volts or greater and could come within 5 feet plus the Minimum Approach Distance. This includes the maximum reach and swing radius of any piece of equipment, load, etc. for movements that are planned and/or non-intentional.

*From the Policy:* Each employee shall be protected from the hazards that might arise from a vehicle or equipment coming in contact with energized lines. If the measures in use will **not protect** each employee from the hazards that might arise if the equipment contacts the line...barricades shall be placed around the vehicle or equipment. Barricading provides a physical and visual obstruction to warn the public **and workers** of possible danger.

# Wire Site Barricading & Grounding

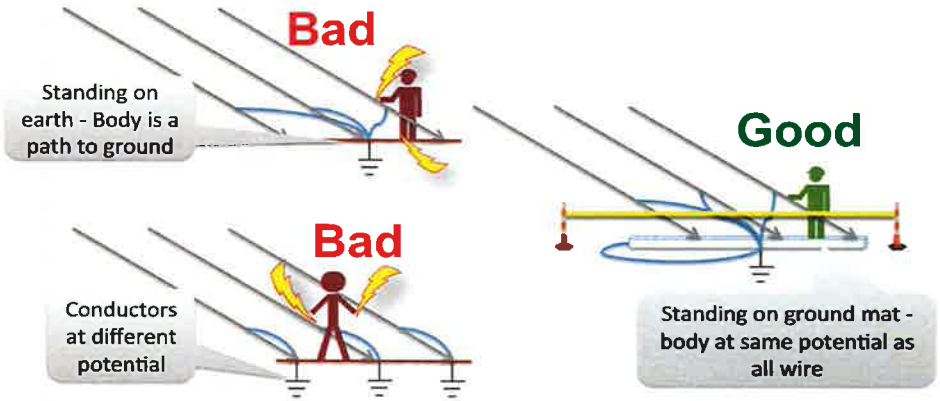
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You can be exposed to a difference in potential either as a path to ground or from contact between two individually grounded objects. The metal mats protect you from being a path to ground, while bonding all equipment, mats, and conductors together protects you from a difference in potential.

## Why do an EPZ at a Wire Site?

During wire installation, there can be significant induction from adjacent lines, along with the possibility of your setup becoming energized in the case of equipment failure. Should the wire site become energized, a proper Equipotential Zone (EPZ) ensures that everyone and everything will be at the same potential.



## Frequently Asked Questions

Q – Why the rope barricade?

A – To keep you and others from stepping onto the EPZ mats anywhere other than the designated entry point. With one foot on the mats and one on the ground, your body would be the path to ground. You don't want that.

Q – Why the double ropes?

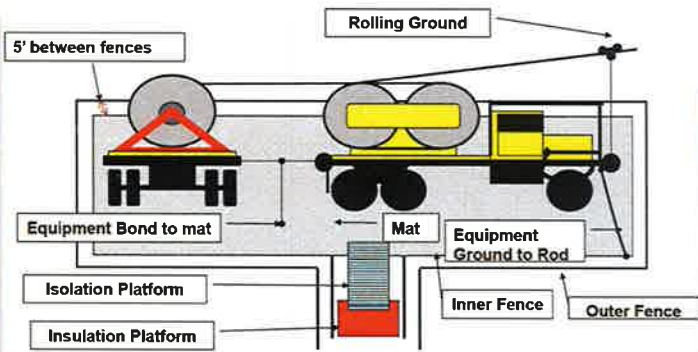
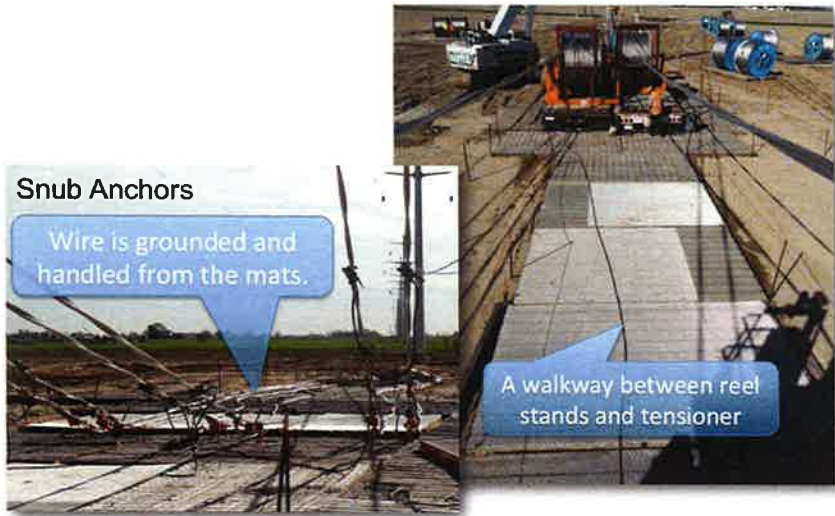
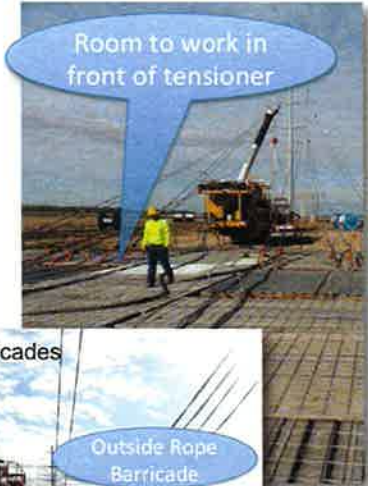
A – If you're standing on one side of the ropes, you don't want to hand a wrench to the mechanic or high-five your buddy if they're standing on the other side. You could both become a path to ground.

Q – Doesn't this take a lot of time and effort to set up?

A – Maybe, but it is the right thing to do. We've seen that the more we plan for this extra step, the easier it becomes to accomplish.

Q – What if I can think of a scenario that still puts me at risk of being a path to ground while working at a wire site like this?

A – Don't keep it to yourself! Please talk about it with your General Foreman, Superintendent, or Safety Supervisor. There are many possible scenarios, and talking through them is the only way to keep you safe from electrical contact in all of them.



## How to EPZ?

