



OSHA REGIONAL INSTRUCTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

DIRECTIVE NUMBER: CPL 20/03 (CPL 04) | **EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2019

SUBJECT: Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for Electrical Hazards

REGIONAL IDENTIFIER: Region IV

ABSTRACT

Purpose: This instruction renews a Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for programmed safety inspections of workplaces with employees exposed to overhead power line electrical hazards. This REP would potentially affect all trades and industries.

Scope: This instruction applies to all Federal Offices in Region IV.

References: [OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-025, Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections](#), January 4, 1995
[OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for the Approval of Local Emphasis Programs \(LEPs\)](#), November 13, 2018
[OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-163, Field Operations Manual \(FOM\)](#), September 13, 2019

Cancellations: This document replaces CPL 19/03, October 1, 2018.

State Impact: None

Action Offices: Region IV Area Offices

Originating Office: Atlanta Regional Office

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By and Under the Authority of

KURT A. PETERMEYER
Regional Administrator

I. **Purpose:**

This instruction renews a Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for programmed safety inspections of workplaces with employees exposed to overhead power line electrical hazards. This REP would potentially affect all trades and industries.

II. **Scope:** This instruction applies to all Federal Area Office in Region IV.

III. **References:**

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IV. **Cancellation:** CPL 19/03, October 1, 2018, Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for Electrical Hazards. This instruction updates and replaces an earlier version.

V. **Expiration:** This instruction expires within four years of the effective date, unless extended.

VI. **Action:** OSHA compliance personnel shall follow the procedures contained in this instruction when conducting outreach and enforcement activities. The scope of inspections scheduled under this REP will be in accordance with the FOM.

VII. **Background:**

In FY-18, the region conducted 23 inspections that were coded under the REP for overhead electrical power lines. Six of those inspections were fatality investigations. There were also five employer reported referrals. According to BLS, in 2017, there were 135 electrocutions nationwide, with 36 of those involving power lines, transformers, convertors (as the primary source) and 45 cases where these were the secondary source.

Many of the electrical accidents occur in construction, as well as, tree trimming operations. Reductions in exposures and injuries can be achieved through this regional emphasis program that focuses on overhead power line electrical hazards.

VIII. **Program Procedures:**

- A. Compliance Safety and Health Officers (CSHOs) shall, while traveling during the course of their work day, be watchful for work activities where exposures to overhead power line electrical hazards may be expected. The compliance officer seeing such work activity shall attempt to contact the area office to obtain authorization from the Area Director or Team Leader to begin an immediate inspection. Approval to start an inspection will normally be granted to the CSHO provided that this activity does not conflict with higher priority inspection activity.

- B. If the CSHO has no readily available means to contact the area office, or is otherwise unable to reach area office personnel who can authorize the inspection, the CSHO will initiate either a limited scope inspection provided this activity will not interfere with higher priority inspections or assignments. In these cases, the CSHO will give highest priority to preventing further employee exposure to the electrical hazards observed. The CSHO shall notify the Area Director or Team Leader of the inspection as soon as possible.
- C. Whenever an inspection is begun under this REP, the CSHO will include in the case file narrative a description of the circumstances which resulted in discovery of the work activity that was the basis of the inspection. In cases where authorization was not obtained, an explanation shall be included as to the circumstances.
- D. If upon entry, a determination is made that no violative condition exists, no employer and employee relationship exist, the CSHO shall document those facts in a narrative.
- E. If a complaint is received regarding employees working at or near overhead power line electrical hazards without protection and it can be determined that the work is ongoing, and resources are available, a complaint inspection will be initiated.
- F. If an employer refuses entry on a REP inspection initiated in accordance with this instruction, a warrant shall be sought in accordance with procedures for handling such refusals, focusing on the observed hazards at the time the CSHO attempted to enter the jobsite.
- G. At the end of each REP inspection, the CSHO shall present site employer representatives with training and outreach materials which specifically address overhead power line hazards (resource dependent).

IX. Recording in OIS:

Current instructions for completing the appropriate inspection classification boxes on the Inspection Form shall be applied when recording inspections conducted under the REP as follows:

- A. The Inspection Form for a programmed inspection conducted under this regional emphasis program shall be marked "Planned" and "Local Emphasis Program". Record "OHPWRLNE". CSHO self-referrals are to be recorded as programmed inspections. Complaints, referrals from sources such as police or fire departments.

X. Outreach:

Each Area Director will ensure that outreach activities are conducted to reach as many stakeholders as possible. Outreach is for the purpose of informing interested parties of the

existence, purpose and objectives of this regional emphasis program, as well as to promote employer and employee awareness of overhead power line electrical hazards.

XI. Evaluation:

An evaluation of the program will be conducted midway through and at the completion of the effective period that addresses whether or not the program advances OSHA's goals and initiatives and will include quantitative and qualitative measures.