



OSHA REGIONAL INSTRUCTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

DIRECTIVE NUMBER: ATL-CPL-04-00-001

SUBJECT: Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for Electrical Hazards

REGION: Atlanta (ATL)

SIGNATURE DATE: October 1, 2024

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

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.

Scope: This instruction applies to all Atlanta Region Federal Offices.

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 02-00-164, Field Operations Manual \(FOM\)](#), September 13, 2019

Cancellations: CPL 23/03, October 1, 2023. This Instruction updates and replaces an earlier version.

State Impact: No Impact

Action Offices: All Atlanta Region Federal Area Offices

Originating Office: Atlanta Regional Office

Contact: Assistant Regional Administrator for Enforcement Programs

By and Under the Authority of

KURT A. PETERMEYER
Regional Administrator

Executive Summary

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.

Significant Changes

Removed "Region IV" designation and replaced with "Atlanta Region". Continuation of REP.

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- 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.
- II. Scope.
This instruction applies to all Atlanta Region Federal Area Offices.
- III. References.
 - A. [OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-025, Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections](#), January 4, 1995.
 - B. [OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for the Approval of Local Emphasis Programs \(LEPs\)](#), November 13, 2018
 - C. [OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-164, Field Operations Manual \(FOM\)](#), September 13, 2019
 - D. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Fatal Occupational Injuries 2022
- IV. Cancellations.
 - A. This replaces the previous REP (CPL 23/03).
- V. Expiration.
This instruction expires within four years of the effective date, unless extended.
- VI. Action Offices.
 - A. Responsible Office.
Atlanta Regional Office – Enforcement Programs.
 - B. Action Office.
All Atlanta Region Federal Area Offices.
- VII. Federal Program Change.
None.
- VIII. Significant Changes.
None.
- IX. Background

In FY23, the region conducted 20 inspections that were coded under the REP for overhead electrical power lines. Eight of those inspections were fatality investigations. There were also four employer reported referrals. According to BLS, in 2022, there were 145 electrocutions nationwide, with 25 of those electrocutions occurring in geographical area previously known as Region IV.

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.

X. Procedures

- A. Compliance Safety and Health Officers (CSHOs) shall, while traveling during the course of their workday, 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 (AD) or Assistant Area Director (AAD) 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 initiated 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 and/or no employer and employee relationship exists, the CSHO shall document those facts in a narrative.
- E. If a complaint is received regarding employees working at or near overhead power lines and exposed to 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).

XI. Recording in OIS

Current instructions for completing the appropriate OSHA forms shall be applied when recording inspections under this REP.

- 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 and referrals from sources such as police or fire departments are to be coded as unprogrammed.

XII. 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.

XIII. Evaluation

An evaluation of the program will be conducted midway through and at the completion of the effective period that includes:

- A. The goal of the program.
- B. Data and information used to support the continuation or cancellation of the program. Data may include enforcement statistics, serious hazards identified and abated, the number of employees removed from hazards, and any impact on covered, non-inspected employers.
- C. Statement and rationale of whether the program should be continued.
- D. Description of any legal issues that arose which would necessitate a review by the Solicitor before renewal of the program.
- E. Any other comments or recommendations, including findings, which might have an impact on how the industry conducts business.
- F. Data associated with outreach sessions in which this emphasis program is addressed.