



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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OSHA)

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**Issued:** December 14, 2017

Gina Wolverton  
Idaho Power Company  
1221 W Idaho St.  
Boise, ID 83702

**Subject:** Installing protective rubber equipment on 12.5 kV lines using rubber gloves and sleeves.

Dear Ms. Wolverton:

This letter is in response to your October 26, 2017 inquiry into the meaning of Oregon OSHA's Division 2/RR, 437-002-2311. You asked if rubber protective equipment, such as insulating blankets, may be installed while using rubber gloves and sleeves on energized 12.5 kV (or 12,500 volts) lines and equipment.

To answer your question, in Oregon live-line tools must be used to install the insulating blankets and rubber gloves and sleeves are worn only as secondary and additional protection on voltages above 5,000 volts up to 15,000 volts, phase to ground.

During the promulgation of this rule in 2015, our stakeholder advisory group, which included PGE, Pacific Power, Oregon OSHA, and others, determined that the installation of insulating blankets must be done with live-line tools on voltages over 5000.

Here are the pertinent standards relating to your inquiry: (highlighted for emphasis)

*437-002-2311 (3) (c) (C)*

*(C) Live-line barehand work is prohibited in Oregon.*

*437-002-2311 (4) Type of insulation: Adequate barriers and clearances.*

*(a) Protective equipment and devices must be installed or removed with:*

*(A) Rubber gloves or hot sticks on conductors or equipment **energized at 5,000 volts or less.***

*(B) Live line tools for conductors or equipment energized **in excess of 5,000 volts.***

*(C) Rubber protective equipment may be considered as adequate barriers when used on voltages for which it is rated. Rubber gloves may be used **as additional protection** from accidental contact only, on voltages above 5,000 and not over 15,000 volts phase to ground.*

*(D) Rubber gloves cannot be used as primary protection on voltages over 5,000 volts.*

If we can be of further assistance, call Oregon OSHA's Technical Section at 503-378-3272 or visit Oregon OSHA's website at [www.osha.oregon.gov](http://www.osha.oregon.gov)

Sincerely,

Trena VanDeHey, Standards & Appeals Manager  
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division