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LOCAL UNION No. 77

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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PLEASE POST

Date: April 7, 2015

To: Unit Chairs
Shop Stewards
Accident Investigators

From: Louis R. Walter, Business Manager *LW*

Re: Critical Product News Flash- Salisbury Insulating Link Sticks

Please post the attached Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Critical Product News Flash regarding all Salisbury Insulating Link Sticks. PG&E issued the News Flash and is discontinuing use of the link sticks. If you are still using the products listed, you may want to contact your employer to follow up as to the safety of the product.

LW/mw
opeiu8 afl-cio

Attachment



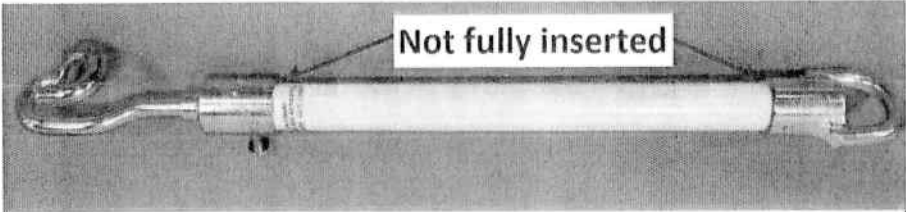
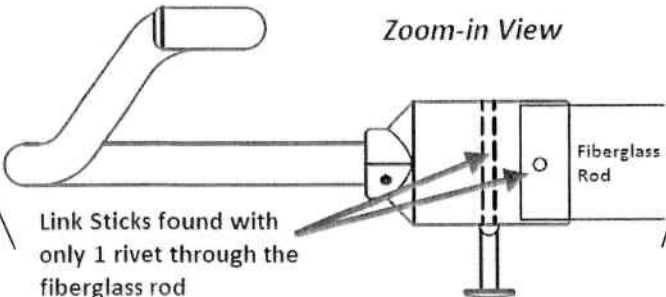
Insulating Link Stick: Salisbury / Safety Line



Critical Product News Flash

The purpose of this Critical Product News Flash is to advise the field on an issue related to **“ALL” Salisbury Insulating Link Sticks**. These tools are key to employee and public safety and are used between energized conductors and any rigging points that may be at a different electrical potential.

Product Code	Manufacturer	Product Description
M205278 & M013792 (and ALL other size/length Salisbury Link Sticks)	Salisbury/ Safety Line/ White Safety Line	Insulating Link Stick with Pigtail and Pulling Eye (various overall lengths, various lengths between ferrules)

Who is impacted?	All Electric Operations employees who perform work on energized equipment.
What happened?	<p>A recent near-hit and submitted MPR shows this product is at risk of failing at a critical location, identified to be the ferrule separating from the fiberglass shaft. The problem is attributed to the fiberglass shaft not being fully inserted into the ferrules thus resulting in failure from a lack of engagement by the steel rivets used to connect the ferrules to the fiberglass. This can dramatically decrease the working load limit. Same tool comparisons have shown noticeable differences in overall length, which does not allow the end-user to accurately distinguish a good tool versus a bad tool.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pic 1 (example overview)</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Zoom-in View</i></p> 



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What you need to know:

The investigation into the recent near-hit has revealed inconsistencies in Salisbury's assembly process leading to variations in the end product. **Effective immediately "ALL" existing Salisbury Link Sticks are no longer approved for use and must be purged from the system.** Moving forward Salisbury will be working to improve their link stick assembly and quality control practices with the objective of providing back to PG&E replacement link sticks, free of charge, for each link stick sent in.

In the interim, if replacement link sticks are needed, the alternate tools are listed below. These products are manufactured by Hastings and are available to order through SRM, S&S Tools Catalog:



Pic 5 (PG&E Code 205276)



Pic 6 (PG&E Code 13792)



Pic 7 (PG&E Code HAS3480)



Pic 8 (PG&E Code 205274)



Pic 9 (PG&E Code 205277)

Note: "Hot Rope" can also be used as an alternate tool as well.