



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Disable Reclosing to Heighten Worker Protection

In utility line work, safety is built on layers. Each layer is essential; ideally, if one fails, another layer will prevent alignment of all the holes in the proverbial Swiss cheese.

QUESTION: If grounding is meant to protect us in the event of re-energization, why don't we always disable reclosing on the circuit we're working? OSHA requires blocking remote supervisory control during de-energized and grounded work, but disabling reclosing is not mandated. That's a critical gap in our safety net.

Why Does This Matter for Workers?

Grounding is not a guarantee of safety during high-energy fault events. Reclosing into a grounded line can:

Cause arcing, equipment damage and violent whipping of ground jumpers.

Expose workers to dangerous step and touch potentials.

Lead to failure of personal protective ground jumpers due to excessive fault energy.