

ELECTRIC UTILITY SAFETY CONE ZONE PROGRAM

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After a fatal contact accident at a jobsite while conducting a paving operation, CDOT developed a similar program to help with the prevention of accidental contact of electric utility lines. With thousands of contacts each year, it was felt that it is good safety sense to promote prevention of accidental contacts of electric utility high voltage lines, above or below the ground.

With this in mind, Cone Zone has been developed to decrease accidental contact with power lines. There are 3 important parts to the program that make this possible and workable. The first is to communicate the availability of this resource to the people that are or may become involved with a power line contact. Second, is the implementation of the program once it has been communicated to those in the area at risk. Third, is the equipment used which is simple to acquire and set-up such as the 28" traffic cone and the reflective sleeve developed specifically for this project from Electromark which is about \$30 each.

Once the equipment is in place, it should help detour contacts with the three hazard alert items used to warn of hazards. Those are the *Signal Word Panel*, *Message Panel*, and the *Safety Symbol Panel*. These are a part of the warning sleeve that fits over the cone. Not only does the hazard alert item help but also the reflective lime green colored sleeve catches your attention, day and night.

The program can also be expanded to let the utility do an on-site "Job Safety Analysis" of the work area and communicate with the people who would be working in the area. This would help to give a clear view of the program and the dangers that could happen from an accidental contact. The program is also set up to not just warn of overhead utilities, but to give attention to an area that has underground utilities.

It is hoped that this useful safety resource can be promoted state wide as an option for utility hazard recognition to prevent accidental contact with high voltage lines. Cone Zone is very visual with the cones and sleeves and can be verbal when promoted with an onsite visit to help workers understand the dangers of electricity. All of this can save lives.

PHOTOS:



