

Building

March 2026

Maintenance & Safety

Products

The Invisible Threat

Cover Provided by GasClip



Why Laser Lines and Projected Signs?

Because, PAINT & TAPE SUCKS!

DOCK RIGHT
LASER DOCKING TECHNOLOGY
Dock Right Laser System Div. of LTBLTech, LLC
LOSS PREVENTION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
www.LTBLtech.com

LTBL TECH "The Original"
LIGHTCOP
- Loss Prevention For The 21st Century -



We ALWAYS Have Great Inventory and Can Ship Same Day If Needed. Call Us!



call

615.593.0510

www.LTBLtech.com

LONE WORKER PROTECTION
FALL PROTECTION
SUSPENSION TRAUMA PREVENTION

SECURE 1/2 MILE
LINE-OF-SIGHT 



ASSIGNED MONITORING ATTENDANTS



Grace Web Portal Dashboard



Custom Check-In Schedule



TEXT/Email Notification

Receive a GPS Map Link

Check-In System



LEARN MORE



GRACE GATEWAYS

Iridium Satellite/Cellular

Mobile or Portable Worksite Models

SALTI™ System Loop Test Indicator

Supports up to 20 Grace Pendants



WORKFORCE® LONE WORKER PENDANT

Fall Detection

Manual Panic Button

Motion Detection

GPS Location



PG 4	The Invisible Threat
PG 12	The High Cost of Keeping the Lights On: Why Lineman Safety Demands a National Reckoning
PG 20	Buyer's Guide
PG 22	Ad Index



Pg 12

Building Maintenance & Safety Products

Vol. 26 Issue 3

PRESIDENT

Glen Hobson
205-441-5591
glen@handfmedia.net

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Steven Goodwin
205-624-2181
steve@handfmedia.net

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Steven Hobson
steven@handfmedia.net

EDITOR

Brandon Greenhill
brandon@handfmedia.net

CREATIVE/ WEB DIRECTOR

Jacklyn Greenhill
jacklyn@handfmedia.net

P.O. Box 1568 • Pelham, AL 35124
Phone: 205-441-5591 • Fax: 205-624-2181

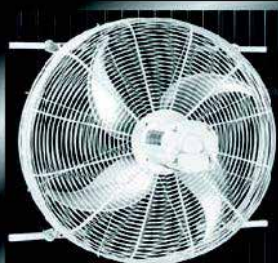


Building Maintenance & Safety Products™ is published twelve times a year on a monthly basis by HFG Media. *Building Maintenance & Safety Products™* is distributed free to qualified subscribers. Non-qualified subscription rates are \$57.00 per year in the U.S. and Canada and \$84.00 per year for foreign subscribers (surface mail). U.S. Postage paid at Birmingham, Alabama and additional mailing offices.

Building Maintenance & Safety Products™ is distributed to building maintenance and safety managers in manufacturing, apartment buildings, and school systems nationwide. Publisher is not liable for all content (including editorial and illustrations provided by advertisers) of advertisements published and does not accept responsibility for any claims made against the publisher. It is the advertiser's or agency's responsibility to obtain appropriate releases on any item or individuals pictured in an advertisement. Reproduction of this magazine in whole or in part is prohibited without prior written permission from the publisher.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
HFG Media, Inc. P.O. Box 1568
Pelham, AL 35124
PRINTED IN THE USA

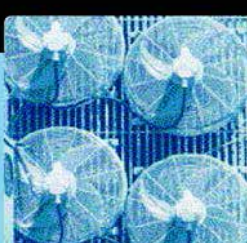
Get Cool!




Extend transformer life!

Increase transformer capacity up to 166%!

- expert technical assistance
- low sound levels
- energy-efficient motors
- large inventory
- one-piece cast aluminum blades
- galvanized or stainless steel guards





KRENZ-VENT™

quality engineered, performance tested

p.o. box 187 germantown, wisconsin 53022

262.255.2310

www.krenzvent.com



DIVERSE MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS

**BUILDING A SAFER FUTURE
ONE LEVELIZER AT A TIME.**

LEVELIZER® E8

The Dual Mezzanine Safety Gate that Takes Up No Space on the Work Platform



- WORKS AT YOUR CURRENT PLATFORM HEIGHT
- DUAL UP AND DOWN CARGO FLOW
- SELF-CLOSING INNER GATE
- ARTICULATING INNER GATE, FULL PALLET ACCESS
- OUTER GATE ENSURES LEADING EDGE PROTECTION
- BASE PLATE HAS BUILT-IN TOE KICK
- SMALLER FOOTPRINT THAN THE E7
- CUSTOM SIZES AND STAINLESS STEEL AVAILABLE
- US PATENT 11,174,605
- OSHA 1910.29 COMPLIANT

LEVELIZER® E3

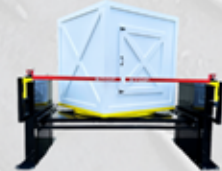
THE ONLY SAFETY GATE YOU CAN'T LEAVE OPEN



- UTILIZES SPACE BETWEEN FORKS AND PALLET
- FULLY AUTOMATIC, NO ELECTRIC/HYDRAULIC
- DUAL UP AND DOWN CARGO FLOW
- FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE AVAILABLE IN STAINLESS
- CAN'T LEAVE OPEN BECAUSE IT DOESN'T OPEN
- EASY INSTALLATION. BOLT OR WELD IN PLACE
- CUSTOM SIZES AND STAINLESS STEEL AVAILABLE
- US PATENT 9,938,736
- OSHA 1910.29 COMPLIANT

LEVELIZER® CUBE

The Ergonomic Hybrid Mezzanine Safety Gate with Self-Leveling Workstation



- DUAL GATE SYSTEM FOR UP & DOWN FLOW
- ARTICULATING INNER GATE FULL PALLET ACCESS
- SELF-LEVELING PLATFORM
- LAZY SUSAN PLATFORM FOR 360 PALLET ACCESS
- CANTILEVER DECK-EASY ACCESS TO PALLET
- SMALL FOOTPRINT ON MEZZANINE
- VARIABLE WEIGHT CAPACITIES AVAILABLE
- US PATENT PENDING
- OSHA 1910.29 COMPLIANT

LEVELIZER® E7

The Dual Mezzanine Safety Gate that Takes Up No Space on the Work Platform



- WORKS AT YOUR CURRENT PLATFORM HEIGHT
- DUAL UP AND DOWN CARGO FLOW
- SELF-CLOSING INNER GATE
- OMNI-ROLLERS FOR PRODUCT PROTECTION
- ARTICULATING INNER GATE, FULL PALLET ACCESS
- OUTER RED GATE HAS A BUILT-IN TOE KICK
- US PATENT 11,174,605
- OSHA 1910.29 COMPLIANT

LEVELIZER® FLOWGATE

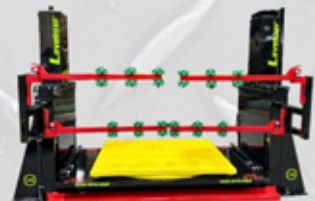
Maximum Gate Opening and Full Pallet Access



- UNIQUELY DESIGNED FOR A PICK DECK
- WORKS AT YOUR CURRENT PLATFORM HEIGHT
- DUAL PALLET SYSTEM
- ARTICULATING GATE FOR FULL PALLET ACCESS
- DUAL UP AND DOWN CARGO FLOW
- OMNI-ROLLERS FOR PRODUCT PROTECTION
- US PATENT PENDING
- OSHA 1910.29 COMPLIANT

LEVELIZER® CUBE 0

The Ergonomic Hybrid Mezzanine Safety Gate with Self-Leveling Workstation



- SAFETY GATE SYSTEM FOR UP & DOWN FLOW
- ARTICULATING GATES FOR FULL PALLET ACCESS
- PLATFORM STARTS AT THE ZERO POSITION
- LAZY SUSAN PLATFORM FOR 360 PALLET ACCESS
- CANTILEVER DECK-EASY ACCESS TO PALLET
- DESIGNED FOR MIXED MATERIAL LOADS
- VARIABLE WEIGHT CAPACITIES AVAILABLE
- US PATENT PENDING
- OSHA 1910.29 COMPLIANT

INTERESTED IN A CONSULTATION?



WWW.DMS-SITE.COM



INFO@DMS-SITE.COM



740-363-3600





The Invisible Threat

The Invisible Threat

Unlike fire or flooding, gas leaks often go unnoticed until it is too late. Natural gas is odorless in its pure form, and although odorants such as mercaptan are added to aid detection, human senses are unreliable safeguards. People may become desensitized to the smell, misinterpret it, or fail to notice it entirely during sleep or in large, poorly ventilated spaces.

The consequences of undetected gas leaks are severe. They range from explosions and fires to long-term health effects caused by exposure. Even small leaks can displace oxygen in confined environments, leading to dizziness, unconsciousness, or death. In commercial and industrial settings, the scale of damage can be catastrophic, affecting not only occupants but also surrounding communities.

Despite these risks, gas detection systems are not universally implemented or maintained with the rigor they deserve. This gap between risk and response is where the real problem lies.

A Patchwork of Standards

Building codes and safety regulations vary widely across regions. While some jurisdictions mandate gas detectors in certain types of buildings, many do not require comprehensive systems, especially in older structures. Retrofitting existing buildings often falls into a gray area—recommended but not enforced.

This inconsistency creates a dangerous patchwork of safety standards. Newer buildings may incorporate advanced detection technologies, while older ones rely on outdated infrastructure and human vigilance. The result is an uneven level of protection that depends more on geography and budget than on actual risk.

Moreover, compliance does not always equal safety. Even where regulations exist, enforcement may be lax, and periodic inspections may fail to identify malfunctioning or poorly installed systems. A detector that is present but nonfunctional offers a false sense of security, which can be more dangerous than having no system at all.

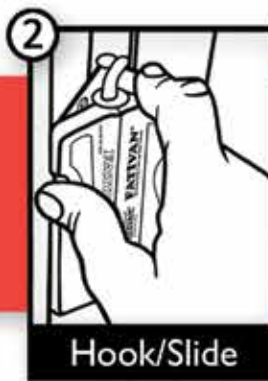


KEEP THAT DOOR OPEN.



HEAVY DUTY DOOR STOPPER!

*Works In A Snap! Magnetized For Convenient Storage!
Easy As 1~2~3 To Hold Open A Door With FatIvan!*



EMERGENCY SERVICES • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • RESIDENTIAL • DELIVERIES

WWW.THEPROPPERSHOP.COM

SALES@THEPROPPERSHOP.COM

Technology Has Outpaced Adoption

Ironically, the technology to detect gas leaks has advanced significantly in recent years. Modern sensors are more accurate, faster, and capable of detecting multiple gases simultaneously. Smart systems can integrate with building management platforms, trigger automated shut-offs, and send real-time alerts to occupants and emergency services.

Wireless connectivity and the Internet of Things (IoT) have further expanded possibilities. Detectors can now be monitored remotely, data can be analyzed for patterns, and predictive maintenance can identify potential issues before they escalate. In theory, we have the tools to make gas-related incidents exceedingly rare.

In practice, adoption lags far behind capability. Cost concerns, lack of awareness, and resistance to change all play a role. For many building owners, gas detection is viewed as an optional upgrade rather than a critical safety investment. This mindset persists even as the cost of technology decreases and the potential liability of neglect increases.

Human Factors and Behavioral Gaps

Technology alone cannot solve the problem. Human behavior is a critical component of gas safety. Occupants must recognize warning signs, respond appropriately, and understand the importance of regular maintenance.

Unfortunately, education on gas safety is minimal. Fire drills are common, but gas leak drills are virtually nonexistent. Tenants may not know how to shut off gas lines, and employees in commercial settings may lack clear protocols for responding to suspected leaks.

Maintenance practices also fall short. Detectors require periodic testing, calibration, and replacement. In many buildings, these tasks are overlooked or deferred. Budget constraints and competing priorities

often push safety maintenance to the background until an incident occurs.

There is also a psychological dimension to consider. People tend to underestimate low-probability, high-impact risks. Gas leaks, like other invisible threats, do not command attention until they result in visible damage. This cognitive bias leads to complacency and underinvestment in preventive measures.

The Role of Building Owners and Managers

Responsibility for gas safety ultimately rests with those who design, own, and manage buildings. Yet accountability is often diffuse. Developers may prioritize cost savings during construction, assuming that operational safety will be addressed later. Property managers may focus on immediate concerns such as occupancy and maintenance requests, rather than long-term risk mitigation.

This fragmented approach creates gaps in safety coverage. A comprehensive gas detection strategy requires coordination across all stages of a building's lifecycle—from design and construction to operation and renovation.

Building owners must recognize that gas detection is not merely a compliance issue but a moral and financial imperative. The cost of installing and maintaining detection systems is negligible compared to the potential losses from an incident, including property damage, legal liability, and reputational harm. Insurance companies are beginning to reflect this reality by incentivizing the adoption of safety technologies. Lower premiums and better coverage terms are increasingly tied to the presence of robust detection systems. This trend is likely to accelerate, making gas detection not only a safety requirement but also a financial necessity.

Toward a Culture of Proactive Safety

Addressing the problem of gas leaks requires more

Made to order precast polymer HOUSEKEEPING PADS



ADVANTAGES OF POXYBASE[®] PADS

Outperforms

traditional concrete

Quick Installation

no waiting for concrete to cure

Labor Saving

no forms or pouring field materials

Mounting

stainless steel inserts for equipment and floor anchors

Flexible Designs

built to exact size specifications including conduit openings

Built to Last

corrosion resistant and extremely durable (seismic ready)

Quick Delivery

with limited colors available



basetek.com **877-712-2273** info@basetek.com

BASETEK
L L C

Built to last
and outperform. **We guarantee it.**



than incremental improvements. It demands a cultural shift toward proactive safety. This means treating gas detection with the same seriousness as fire protection and structural integrity.

Education is a critical component of this shift. Occupants should be informed about the risks of gas leaks, the function of detection systems, and the appropriate response to alarms. Clear signage, training sessions, and regular drills can reinforce this knowledge.

At the same time, policymakers must strengthen regulations to ensure consistent standards across regions. Mandatory installation of gas detectors in all buildings with gas infrastructure should be a baseline requirement, not an exception. Regular inspections and penalties for noncompliance can help ensure that systems remain functional.

Industry stakeholders also have a role to play. Manu-

facturers should continue to innovate while making their products more accessible and user-friendly. Contractors and engineers should prioritize safety in their designs and installations. Professional organizations can promote best practices and provide guidance to building owners.

The Future of Gas Detection

Looking ahead, the future of gas detection is likely to be defined by integration and intelligence. Systems will become more interconnected, forming part of broader building ecosystems that include fire detection, security, and environmental monitoring.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning may enable systems to predict leaks based on subtle changes in pressure, flow, or environmental conditions. Drones and robotic systems could be used to inspect hard-to-reach areas, reducing the risk to human inspectors.

Click, click, click and click



9 Year old John can submit an entire
WH347 payroll form

You Can Do It Too!

1. Login 2. Select Project 3. Import Payroll 4. Sign Document



- **Encrypted**
- **2 Minute Paperless Payroll**
- **Works with Prime and all Subcontractors**
- **55,000 + Clients**
- **80% Savings In Time and Money Compared to Manually Prepared Payroll**
- **Call for Free Demo**

eMars

CERTIFIED PAYROLL COMPLIANCE

emarsinc.com

Ph: 480-771-2841

These advancements hold great promise, but they also raise new challenges. Data privacy, cybersecurity, and system reliability will become increasingly important as detection systems become more complex and interconnected.

Nevertheless, the direction is clear: gas detection is moving from a reactive to a proactive paradigm. The question is whether adoption will keep pace with innovation.

Conclusion

Gas leaks in buildings represent a preventable hazard that continues to cause unnecessary harm. The technology to detect and mitigate these risks already exists, yet gaps in regulation, awareness, and behavior persist.

Closing these gaps requires a coordinated effort from policymakers, industry professionals, building

owners, and occupants. It requires investment not only in technology but also in education and cultural change.

Ultimately, the goal should be simple: no one should suffer injury or loss due to an undetected gas leak. Achieving this goal is not a matter of possibility but of priority. Until gas detection is treated as an essential component of building safety rather than an optional enhancement, the risk will remain.

The time to act is not after the next incident, but before it. Proactive investment in gas leak detection is an investment in safety, Such as those that offered from companies such as Gas Clip. resilience, and peace of mind—a commitment that every building, and every occupant, deserves.

www.gascliptech.com

SLIP AND FALL PREVENTION!

Since
1993

NEW!



TESTING DYNAMIC
COEFFICIENT OF
FRICTION (DCOF)
ASM 925

DIGITAL ASM 825A SLIP METER

WET AND DRY TESTING
CALIBRATES TO ANSI/NFSI B101.1

SAFE FLOORS MAY INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY
AND WILL CERTAINLY REDUCE LOSSES

SCOF RESULTS WITH AN EASY-TO-USE
PORTABLE FLOOR FRICTION TESTER

PH: 941-681-2431 | FAX: 941.681.2487

AMERICAN SLIP METER®

WWW.AMERICANSLIPMETER.COM



Working should'nt hurt.

Family Owned Business

Safeworker.com has been a family-owned business since 1997. We believe in making products that work right and last for the long haul.

STOP a LADDER


Another fine **ERGO KNEES** product
www.ergoknee.com



NEW SIZE

SOFT KNEES[®] No-Strap Knee Pads

888-456-3372 • www.safeworker.com • info@safeworker.com



The High Cost of Keeping the Lights On: Why Lineman Safety Demands a National Reckoning

When the lights flicker back to life after a storm, most people exhale in relief. They rarely stop to think about the men and women who made that happen—linemen who climbed poles in driving rain, battled wind, ice, and live voltage to restore power to millions. Yet behind every switch flipped back on, there's a story of risk. Power linemen work one of the most dangerous jobs in the world, and despite technological improvements, too many of them still pay the ultimate price for the comfort and connectivity of others.

This editorial argues that lineman safety is not just a matter of proper gear or training—it's an ethical responsibility of utilities, regulators, and society. The work that keeps the modern world running should not demand a toll in lives and limbs. True progress will mean changing how we value essential workers, redesigning safety culture, and holding leadership

accountable for every preventable loss.

A Dangerous Profession in Plain Sight

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, electrical power-line installers and repairers consistently rank among the top ten most dangerous occupations. Fatality rates often exceed 20 deaths per 100,000 workers annually—a staggering figure, far higher than for police officers or firefighters. Non-fatal injuries are even more frequent: falls from poles, burns from arc flashes, electrocution, and musculoskeletal damage from years of manual strain.

The danger is inherent in the work. Linemen confront high-voltage electricity, exposure to extreme weather, working at height, and the constant unpredictability of the field. But just because the danger is inherent doesn't mean it has to be accepted as inevitable. The difference between risk and tragedy

is preparation, regulation, and respect.

Safety lapses are rarely caused by one bad decision. They're systems failures—flawed planning, inadequate rest, insufficient equipment, or a culture that rewards speed over caution. In industries driven by outage times, where restoring power faster can mean millions in revenue or reputation, the temptation to cut corners can be lethal.

The Pressure to Perform

During disaster recovery, crews are often asked to work 16-hour shifts for days or weeks on end. Overtime becomes not just a choice but a necessity. While the dedication of these workers is heroic, fatigue erodes alertness, slows reaction times, and increases mistakes. Studies in occupational safety show that working more than 12 hours doubles the risk of injury.

Utilities often depend on the culture of “getting it done”—a badge of honor among linemen who pride themselves on toughness and endurance. That pride is understandable and even admirable, but it can become deadly when safety is perceived as weakness. The culture must evolve from bravery defined by endurance to bravery defined by vigilance.

Organizations that value quick restoration above all else unintentionally set up their crews for failure. The real measure of performance should not be how fast power returns, but whether every worker returns home intact.

The Inadequacy of Training and Oversight

Training is the foundation of safety, yet programs vary wildly across the industry. Apprentice programs in some regions last four years with rigorous field and classroom components. Others offer condensed training with limited oversight, outsourcing instruction to contractors or underfunded technical schools. Inconsistent standards mean inconsistent safety outcomes.

Moreover, ongoing education often stops after certification. New equipment, changing safety protocols, and evolving hazards (especially with the expansion of distributed energy systems and renewables) demand continual learning. Utilities must invest not only in onboarding but in lifelong education for their crews.

Supervisors and safety officers also play crucial roles—but their authority depends on company culture. When supervisors are pressured to meet time targets instead of safety benchmarks, priorities skew dangerously. Regulatory agencies like OSHA can issue citations, but oversight usually comes after an incident. Preventive enforcement—through audits, surprise inspections, and transparent reporting—remains underdeveloped.

Technology as a Partner, Not a Substitute

Technology offers hope for safer work environments, but only when properly integrated. Wearable sensors can monitor exposure to electrical currents or alert crews to dangerous proximity. Drones can inspect damaged lines before crews arrive, reducing unnecessary exposure. Smart grids and automation can localize outages faster, limiting the urgency that drives risky decisions.

However, technological solutions often face resistance—not from linemen, but from administrators reluctant to invest. Safety technology doesn't easily translate into profit margins or shareholder value, yet its absence can destroy both in a heartbeat. Every accident brings lawsuits, downtime, bad press, and morale collapse. Safety pays, but in the long term. The industry must adopt a longer-horizon view of its workforce and the infrastructure it maintains. A more subtle danger is overreliance on technology. No drone replaces the human judgment of a seasoned lineman. Gadgets can augment awareness, but safety culture must remain grounded in human discipline, communication, and accountability.

Mental Health: The Hidden Frontier of Safety



When people imagine workplace hazards, they think of voltages and heights—not trauma, fatigue, or grief. But linemen often work scenes of destruction: towns ripped apart by hurricanes, wildfire wreckage, or neighborhoods in blackout despair. They witness suffering and sometimes become victims themselves through loss of colleagues.

Mental health support is rarely prioritized in utility work. Postincident counseling, peer support networks, or wellness programs remain patchy, if present at all. The stigma against seeking help can be strong in a bluecollar, masculine environment where toughness is valorized.

Yet unaddressed stress and burnout contribute directly to safety risks. A worker exhausted emotionally or mentally is less focused and more vulnerable. Protecting mental health is not peripheral to safety—it is central to it. Some forwardthinking companies have begun embedding counselors or establishing “critical incident stress teams” that deploy after major events. This should become standard industry

practice, not an exception.

The Ethics of Outsourcing and Subcontracting

Another growing challenge is the increasing use of contract linemen. In large outages or utility expansions, companies often subcontract labor through thirdparty firms, many of which hire temporary or unaffiliated workers. While this can speed workforce mobilization, it creates layers of accountability that dilute responsibility. Contractors may lack full access to utility safety data, equipment standards, or procedural training.

Outsourcing safety results in invisible casualties. A contract lineman injured on the job might not appear in a utility’s official metrics, giving a false sense of success. Without standardized reporting across the industry, the true scope of accidents is underrepresented, and lessons are lost.

If power restoration is a public necessity, then safety oversight must be public too. Regulators should require utilities to assume full moral and legal re-

sponsibility for every worker operating on their lines, regardless of employment classification.

Regulation: Reactive, Not Preventive

OSHA regulations governing electrical transmission and distribution date back decades, though they have been updated periodically. They set minimum safety standards for protective equipment, clearances, and training. But enforcement is limited, reactive,

and inconsistently applied. Penalties for violations are often minor compared to the cost of downtime or litigation.

Moreover, safety protocols are often written by engineers in offices, not linemen in the field. Practical realities—mud, wind, live wires tangled with trees—don't always fit neatly into manual checklists. Regulators need to work more closely with field crews to make rules realistic and adaptive.

There should be a system comparable to the Federal Aviation Administration's model: proactive hazard tracking, mandatory reporting, and emphasis on incident prevention rather than punishment. Aviation safety improved dramatically through mandatory transparency; electrical line work could benefit from the same shift.

A Culture of Safety Starts From the Top

The moral tone of any organization is set by leadership. When executives emphasize safety as a core value—not a compliance checkbox—everything changes. Crew leaders begin to prioritize safety meetings. Workers hold each other accountable. Near misses are reported instead of hidden. And "zero harm" transitions from a slogan to a culture.

Some utilities have succeeded spectacularly. Companies that integrate safety into performance evaluations, reward reporting, and make senior management visible on job sites show measurably lower incident rates. The message



An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure



**CRITTER
GUARD**

Line Guard | Pole Guard | BirdBloc
Learn More at CritterGuard.org



is simple: if leaders care, employees follow.

Safety communication must also be clear and consistent. Too many internal bulletins drown workers in technical jargon. Real safety culture comes from dialogue: open discussions about close calls, peer-to-peer learning, and storytelling that reinforces lessons without blame.

The Role of Unions and Collective Voice

Labor unions have long been the backbone of lineman safety advocacy. Through the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and similar organizations, linemen have fought for improved equipment, timeoff policies, and standardized training. Union negotiated agreements also enforce rest limits that prevent fatiguerelated incidents.

However, union influence varies regionally, and in non-unionized sectors, protections often lag. Strengthening worker voice—through either collective bargaining or participation in safety committees—ensures that those on the ground shape the policies that govern them. Safety reforms imposed from the top rarely stick; those co-written by linemen endure.

Equipment and Innovation: The Next Frontier

While fatal electrocutions remain a leading cause of death among linemen, advances in personal protective equipment (PPE) are reducing risk. Arcrated clothing, conductive footwear, dielectric gloves, fallarrest harnesses, and insulated boom lifts all make a difference, but only when properly maintained and used. Far too often, worn gloves or outdated harnesses remain in circulation long past their inspection deadlines.

Utilities should adopt predictive maintenance not only for power lines but also for protective gear. RFID-tagging PPE for automatic inspection tracking could save lives. Equipment manufacturers continue experimenting with lighter materials and integrated

smart sensors that monitor voltage exposure in real time. These technologies should be deployed widely, not selectively.

Innovation shouldn't stop at personal gear. Grid modernization—undergrounding lines, building smarter distribution networks, or installing remote shutoffs—can dramatically reduce exposure risks. True safety reform will combine individual protection with systemic reengineering.

Comparative Insight: Learning From Other High-Risk Professions

Other industries have made major strides in safety through culture and systems reform. Oil and gas, mining, and aviation faced similarly high fatality rates decades ago. Their successes came from relentless measurement, transparent reporting, and empowering workers to halt unsafe operations.

For example, the “Stop Work Authority” policy common in offshore drilling allows any worker—without fear of retribution—to stop a job they perceive as unsafe. Power utilities could implement similar systems, granting linemen the absolute right to decline unsafe tasks without penalty or stigma. Empowerment saves lives.

Benchmarking energy sector reforms against other hazardous fields would give utilities a roadmap. The question is not whether it can be done, but whether leadership will prioritize it.

Public Awareness and Accountability

Consumers rarely think about linemen until the power goes out, but public understanding matters. Utilities are regulated monopolies in most regions; public pressure influences oversight. Awareness campaigns that highlight linemen's critical role could transform attitudes—making safety investment a reputational asset rather than a cost.

Regulators and media should treat lineman fatalities with the same urgency as other frontline tragedies. Every death restoring the grid deserves the scrutiny

and empathy it warrants. Public acknowledgment drives political will, and political will drives reform.

Better data transparency would help, too. National reporting of accidents, near misses, and causal factors should be mandatory, anonymized, and open to analysis. This is how industries learn collectively rather than repeating each other's mistakes.

Education, Recruitment, and Generational Change

As veteran linemen retire, the next generation must inherit not only skills but wisdom. Apprenticeships should embed safety psychology from the start—not as a module but as a constant theme. Today's young recruits are digitally native; safety training should harness simulation, augmented reality, and virtual field labs to make hazards visceral before they encounter them for real.

Recruitment campaigns should also be honest. Por-

traying line work as adventure without addressing risk misleads candidates. Transparency about danger, paired with transparency about safety systems, attracts workers who are serious and prepared.

Colleges and trade schools should collaborate more closely with utilities to align standards and promote safety research. Funding for lineman-safety studies—covering ergonomics, mental health, and field design—would yield returns far beyond cost.

Where Change Must Begin

Reforming lineman safety requires action across three dimensions:

Policy and Oversight - Modernize OSHA regulations, mandate nationwide reporting standards, and hold utilities responsible for all labor, including contractors.

Corporate Leadership - Integrate safety metrics into executive performance reviews, invest in technology,



NIXALITE®



75 Years of Effective Bird & Animal Control



All American, All
Stainless Steel
Bird Spikes



Architectural Bird
Exclusion Netting
and Hardware



Cleaning, Fogging,
Deodorizing &
Disinfection



Wall & Roof Vent
Guards, Screens
and Barriers

Contact Nixalite® for your **FREE** Product Catalog or go to nixalite.com



Nixalite® of America Inc
1025 16th Ave, East Moline, IL 61244

1(309) 755-8771
sales@nixalite.com
nixalite.com

and ensure field voices shape policy. *Cultural Transformation* – Replace the “toughness” myth with a “smart and safe” ethic. Foster environments where speaking up is strength, not weakness. This triad—policy, leadership, culture—forms a safety triangle that is only as strong as its weakest point.

The Morality of Risk

At its heart, lineman safety is a moral conversation about whose lives we consider indispensable. Soci-

ety depends on their labor yet accepts their deaths as a cost of doing business. If we would not accept those odds for airline passengers or hospital staff, why accept them for those who power every aspect of our existence?

To honor linemen truly is not to applaud them after storms, but to eliminate the circumstances that make their sacrifice seem necessary. Heroism should not be the requirement of the job; professionalism and protection should be.



When a lineman electrocutes, falls, or collapses from exhaustion, the question should not be “what mistake did he make?” but “what system failed him?” Accountability begins there.

Conclusion: Power With Responsibility

Electricity built the modern world; linemen built its reliability. They climb toward danger so communities can live in comfort. But a humane society does not demand quiet suffering from those who serve it. Lineman safety is not just a technical challenge—it is a moral imperative, a test of whether progress includes the people who make it possible.

Every pole climbed, every switch reconnected, every storm-night repair should carry one simple assurance: no light is worth a life. That principle—applied across policy, culture, and conscience—is how we honor those who keep our lights on. •



OIL ALERT[®]

LIQUID LEAK DETECTOR

DETECT OIL LEAKS AND SPILLS...FAST!

- AVOID OPERATIONS SHUT-DOWN
- REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS
- MINIMIZE COSTLY CLEAN-UP
- MONITOR OFF-SITE EQUIPMENT

A small amount of oil (1/32 inch) seeping under Oil Alert activates it's loud "on/off" alarm and/or relay contact output. The low profile dome shaped unit guards against undetected leakage in areas of oil lubricated / hydraulic equipment, stand-by generators, pressurized piping and fuel oil storage locations...

5 year Limited Warranty

DORLEN Products Inc.
6615 W. Layton Ave. Milwaukee, WI. 53220

**Go to WWW.OIL-ALERT.COM
OR CALL: 1-800-533-6392
FOR MORE INFO!!**



The Solution
To stak, store,
protect, and
pull wire!



Stak: Up to five units tall. Easy two handed ergonomic carry from truck or jobsite.

Store: 500' spools of 14, 12 & 10 AWG wire easily for inventory control. Polymer design reduces damage to finished surfaces on the job.

Protect: Reduces wire damage from tools and personnel. Made of non-conductive polymer.

Pull: Pull wire smoothly from the top or the sides when in the Stak. Support large spools with molded V-Grooves.

stakmax.com

Email: Sales@stakmax.com



Scan the QR Code to visit our website.

Stak

Store

Protect

Pull



Building

Maintenance & Safety

BUYER'S GUIDE

Products

American Slip Meter
941-681-2431
www.americanslipmeter.com

AMERICAN SLIP METER®
FAX: 941-681-2487

Base Tek
877-712-2293
www.basetek.com

BASETEK L L C **Built to last
and outperform.**

DMS Site
740-363-3600
www.dms-site.com



Dorlen Products
414-282-4840
www.oil-alert.com

OIL ALERT®
LIQUID LEAK DETECTOR

Jesco
800-455-0019
www.jescoonline.com



LTBL Tech
615-593-0510
www.ltbltech.com



LTBL TECH "The Original" LIGHTCOP
- Loss Prevention For The 21st Century -

DOCK RIGHT
Dock Right Laser System, Inc.
LOSS PREVENTION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Propper Stopper
513-520-1973
www.theproppershop.com



"PROP THAT DOOR OPEN WITH THE PROPPER"
Commercial, Residential, Industrial, Hotel/Motel & Deliveries



Working Concepts
888-400-5674
www.safeworker.com



Got Mats? www.softknees.com

Stak Max
815-355-4503
www.stakmax.com



stak max

The Solution
To stak, store, protect, and pull wire!



Ad Index

Company	Pg.	Website
American Slip Meter	10	www.americanslipmeter.com
Base Tek	7	www.basetek.com
Critter Guard	15	www.critterguard.org
DMS Site	3	www.dms-site.com
Dorlen	19	www.oil-alert.com
eMars Inc	9	www.emarsinc.com
Gas Clip Tech	BC	www.gascliptech.com
Grace Industries	1	www.graceconnectedsafety.com
Jesco	IBC	www.jesco.com
Krenz Vent	2	www.krenzvent.com
LTBL Tech	IFC	www.ltbltech.com
Nixalite	17	www.nixalite.com
Propper Stopper	5	www.theproppershop.com
Stak Max	19	www.stakmax.com
Working Concepts	11, 22	www.safeworker.com

Work shouldn't hurt.

SOFT KNEES®
No-Strap Knee Pads

STOP a LADDER®
Another fine **ergoKNEEL** product
www.ergokneel.com

NEW SIZE

888-456-3372 • www.safeworker.com • info@safeworker.com

**Safety
&
Guarding**



JESCO PALLETGARD®

PALLET RACK SAFETY PANELS

JESCO PALLETGARD® think safety, stop the product before it falls off the pallet rack by using by using a rigid panel system.

Pallet rack containment panels are made with 2" x 1" x 10 gauge rectangular mesh welded in 1-1/4" x 1-1/4" x 1/8" structural angles.

Easy to install, just bolt clips to pallet rack uprights and fasten to the panel.

JESCO PARTITIONS



DIAMOND WIRE MESH ENCLOSURES

Time tested diamond mesh partitions have been pre-engineered for easy installation, give an unrestricted view into the cage, total air circulation, low initial cost and maintenance. Send us the footprint of your project and allow our engineers to assist you on your next project!



JESCOGARD®

PROTECTIVE GUARD RAILING

These versatile guards act as both a visual and physical barrier to help protect people and property such as aisles, docks, conveyors and other equipment. Bolted rails are designed and tested to stop a 10,000 lbs load impacting at 4 mph from breaking through. Lift-out rails shown. All hardware is included.

EXTRA HD WELDED RAIL

Designed to meet your most severe guarding needs around pallet racks, high traffic areas, and pedestrian walkways. All joints continuously welded for maximum strength. Available in single, double, or triple heights, straight or corner units.



Call 888.463.1246
Visit www.JescoOnline.com

JESCO
— Since 1932 —[®]

Jesco Industries, Inc.
Ph: 517.542.2903 Fax: 517.542.2501
PO Box 388 Litchfield, MI 49252-0388

Protection That Works Wherever You Do

- Reliable gas detection built for real-world job sites
- Simple to use - minimal training required
- Rugged, field-ready design for demanding environments
- Protection crews can trust - wherever the work takes you

