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PG 4	Advancements in Conduit Repair
PG 10	Signs up Above: Assuring Transmission Tower Safety with Highly Visible, Long-Lasting Signage
PG 22	Company Profile: Rome Plows
PG 26	Ad Index



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Advancements in Conduit Repair

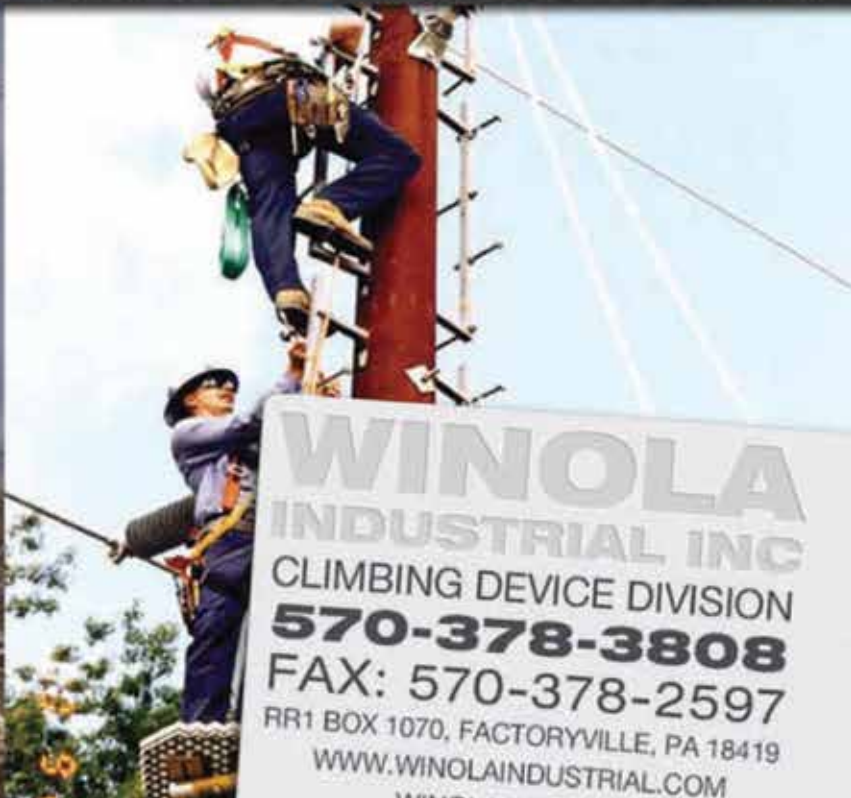
Innovations in Conduit Repair: Paving the Way for Efficient Infrastructure Maintenance

In an era where infrastructure integrity is paramount, the advancements in conduit repair techniques represent a significant leap forward in ensuring the longevity and reliability of our essential utilities. Conduits, the protective tubes that house electrical wiring and communication cables, are crucial for the functionality of urban environments. As cities expand and technology evolves, the need for effective and innovative repair methods has never been more pressing.

The Challenge of Aging Infrastructure

Many cities around the world grapple with aging infrastructure, where conduits often suffer from wear and tear due to environmental factors, corrosion, and physical damage. Traditional repair methods can be labor-intensive, time-consuming, and disruptive, resulting in prolonged service outages and in-

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creased costs. However, recent innovations in conduit repair are transforming how we approach these challenges, making the process faster, more efficient, and less disruptive.

1. *Trenchless Technology: A Game Changer*

One of the most significant advancements in conduit repair has been the development of trenchless technology. This method allows for the repair and replacement of conduits without the need for extensive excavation. By utilizing techniques such as pipe bursting and horizontal directional drilling, workers can access and repair damaged conduits with minimal disruption to the surrounding environment. This innovation not only reduces the time and cost associated with repairs but also minimizes the impact on traffic and local businesses.

2. *Advanced Materials and Techniques*

The introduction of advanced materials has also revolutionized conduit repair. High-density polyethylene (HDPE) and other composite materials provide enhanced durability and resistance to corrosion, making them ideal for long-lasting repairs. Additionally, the use of epoxy resins and specialized sealants can effectively restore the structural integrity of existing conduits, offering a cost-effective alternative to complete replacement.

Moreover, the advent of robotic technologies in conduit inspection and repair has streamlined the process. Robots equipped with cameras and repair tools can navigate through conduits, identifying issues and performing repairs in real-time. This not only speeds up the repair process but also allows for more accurate assessments of conduit conditions, leading to proactive maintenance strategies.

3. *Smart Technologies and Monitoring*



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As cities move towards becoming “smart,” the integration of technology into infrastructure maintenance is becoming increasingly important. Smart sensors can be embedded within conduits to monitor conditions such as temperature, humidity, and structural integrity. This real-time data allows for predictive maintenance, enabling utility companies to address issues before they escalate into costly failures. By leveraging the Internet of Things (IoT), cities can optimize their maintenance schedules and allocate resources more effectively.

4. Sustainability and Environmental Considerations

Innovation in conduit repair also aligns with the growing emphasis on sustainability. Many of the new materials and methods reduce waste and are designed to have a lower environmental impact. For instance, trenchless methods not only reduce the need for exten-



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sive digging but also help preserve existing landscapes and ecosystems. As cities strive to meet sustainability goals, these innovations play a crucial role in creating a more resilient infrastructure.

Conclusion: A Future of Efficient Infrastructure

The innovations in conduit repair represent a paradigm shift in how we maintain our urban infrastructure. By embracing new technologies and methodologies, we can ensure that our conduits remain functional and reliable, supporting the essential services that modern society depends on. As we look to the future, it is imperative that we continue to invest in research and development to further enhance these innovations, ultimately leading to smarter, more efficient, and sustainable infrastructure solutions for generations to come. •



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A large metal transmission tower with power lines, and a helicopter flying nearby.

Signs up Above:

Assuring Transmission
Tower Safety with
Highly Visible,
Long-Lasting Signage

By Del Williams

*Aerial observation tower tags, crossing signs, and transmission tower safety signage
are crucial for rapid, safe repair during outages and ongoing maintenance*

When a widespread power outage occurs and high-voltage transmission lines require immediate repairs, the electric utility often sends a skilled technician to the location by helicopter to speed the repair process. Helicopters, along with drones, are also utilized for monitoring, inspecting, and maintaining transmission towers and power lines. Linemen often work on transmission lines that are not de-energized, allowing for an uninterrupted power supply.

Of course, working near high voltage lines poses significant electrical hazards. Flying close to high voltage lines, often in challenging weather conditions, increases the risk of a crash. The pilots and crew

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*The **A.R.C. Hybrid Cooling System** by **COOLSHIRT SYSTEMS** allows lineman to remain more focused and less fatigued by reducing their core body temperature in extreme environments, therefore reducing the possibility of unintended accidents."*

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must adhere to strict safety protocols to avoid accidental contact with live wires. An electrical arc flash can also cause severe burns or other injuries, so workers wear protective clothing and use insulated tools.

“Given the high-risk nature of the operation, there can be no tolerance for inadequate or unreadable safety signage. When a technician is suspended hundreds of feet above ground, or a drone must fly close to the line, having easily readable, visible

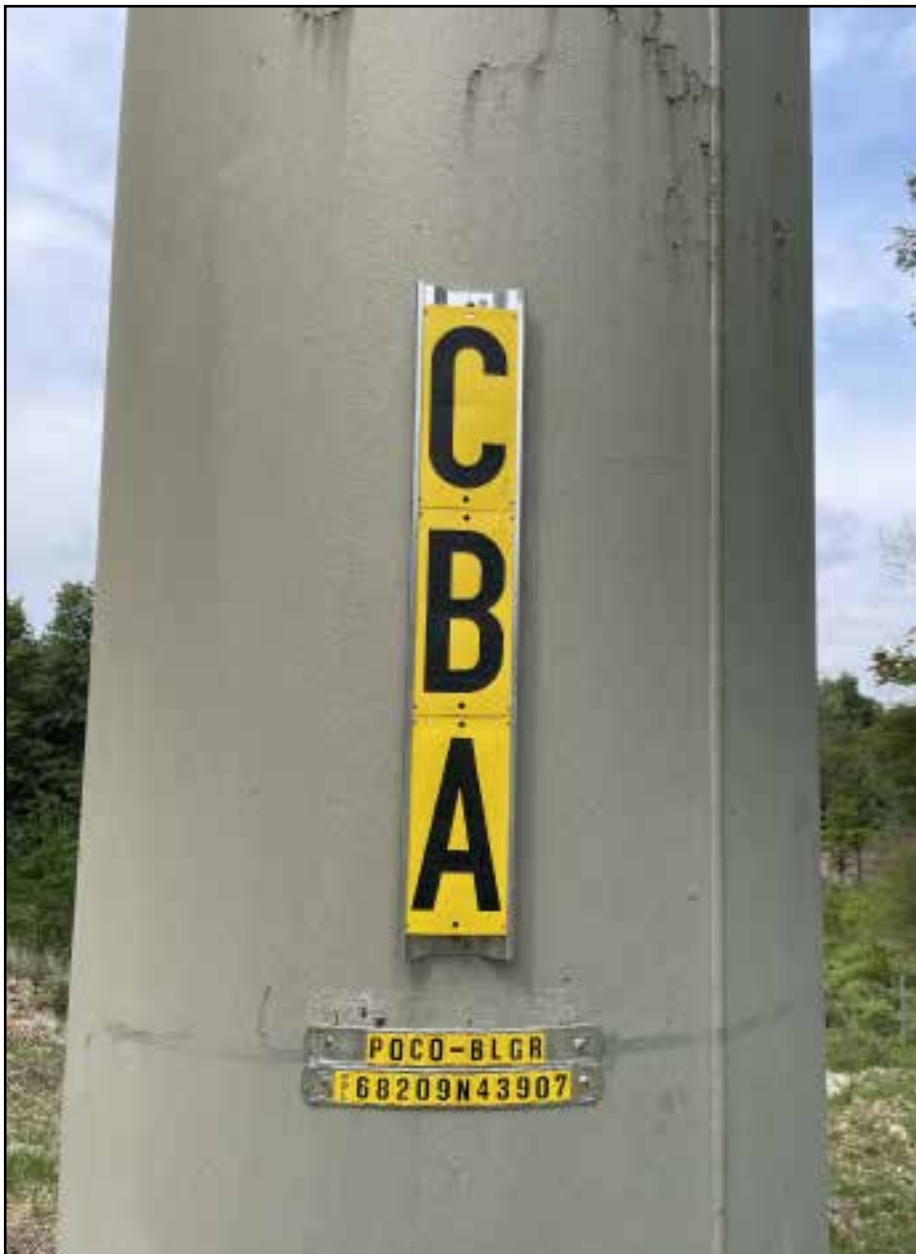
signage ensures the crew is at the correct location and understands the potential dangers and hazards in the area,” says Daniel O’Connor, General Manager of NY-based Tech Products, Inc., a manufacturer of industrial identification products for 76 years.

According to O’Connor, transmission towers require aerial observation tower/pole identification tags, crossing signs, warning signs, as well as various other crucial tags and markers. To mitigate

risk and liability, towers and other restricted areas also need to display warnings of the deadly electrocution and fall hazards to prevent unauthorized access or attempts to climb the structure from the ground.

From the Air

When helicopters or drones are involved, aerial observation tags are vitally important to quickly identify the location of a high-voltage tower from the air. Aerial observation tags are typically made of metal or plastic and installed horizontally or vertically using vandal-proof mounts on posts or stakes. The brightly colored, high contrast numbers and letters typically indicate the line number, section, and tower/



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pole number.

Because of the importance of identifying the correct tower, aerial surveillance markers must be readily visible for many years despite continual expose to sun, rain, snow, sleet, wind, and even corrosive elements like acid rain. Unfortunately, traditional painted and laminated identification

products frequently fade or delaminate when continually exposed to outdoor weather or punishing conditions. Even supposedly durable products designed for this purpose can become unreadable over ten years or more.

Even operators attempting to view aerial markers through the drone's high-resolution camera

may find it difficult without flying closer than needed to the power lines. Operating drones near power lines presents several challenges and dangers, including increasing the risk of arcing. Additionally, strong winds near power lines can destabilize drones, increasing the risk of collisions.

The alternative is more durable signage made of high impact polyolefin plastic like the EVERLAST® brand from Tech Products, a manufacturer of identification products for the electric and gas utilities, telecommunication and cable companies, OEMs and pipeline companies. EVERLAST signs and tags display text or pictograms that are permanently embedded through the entire thickness of the substrate. UV stabilizers and antioxidants are added to provide complete protection and weather resistance in all climates.



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For optimal visibility at a distance, polyolefin plastic aerial observation tags come in sizes ranging from 6 inches to 12 inches, the largest in the industry. According to O'Connor, Entergy, a Fortune 500 integrated energy company, has used this type of signage on their transmission towers since 1989.

Polyolefin plastic signage is also used to identify nearby lines or to indicate unexpected changes in the elevation or direction of the line. For the helicopter crew, crossing lines can be very dangerous, particularly in low visibility conditions. To prevent this from happening, signs are posted. Within the industry, it is typical to clearly indicate a power cable crossing with signage marked by an "X" or a change in direction with an arrow.



"When a helicopter crew is flying at high speeds, any power cables in the vicinity or any sudden directional changes can increase the possibility of a serious accident. Crossing signs mitigate the risk but must be clearly visible in any weather conditions. The embedded characters help to ensure readability decades later," says O'Connor, adding that EVERLAST crossing signs are available in a large 10" x 14" format to promote optimum visibility.

Signage is also necessary to signify specific levels of danger or required precaution with OSHA compliant color codes.

AC transmission lines can carry transmission voltages from 69 kv up to 765 kv, which can be extremely dangerous, and even fatal. As a result, electric utility transmission and distribution identification products such as safety signs, tags, and markers are critical to safe, efficient operation, maintenance, and repair. These brief warnings or instructions, comprised of letters, numbers, and symbols, must effectively convey key information to personnel.

On large, high-voltage transmission towers, phase tags are commonly used to indicate phase polarity on the towers, which is important because connecting the wrong phases can lead to dangerous explosions, serious injury, and extended downtime.

In addition to towers, smaller, lower-voltage distribution lines deliver power to homes and



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businesses on smaller poles. Pole identification products, such as tags and markers, are used to track and identify assets, data, and other vital information. Pole tags can also be used to identify the pole's owner, maintenance history, and other valuable data.

"When lasting transmission and distribution markers are required, another alternative is deeply embossed pole markers made of unpainted, embossed aluminum, brass, or stainless steel. The highly defined characters remain legible for the life of the pole," says O'Connor.

When the tags need to be seen with a flashlight, metal reflective pole tags with screen-printed black characters on construction-grade yellow or

silver reflective sheeting are a good option.

From the Ground

Unfortunately, there have been numerous recent reports over the years of fatalities and severe injuries from people climbing high-voltage transmission towers for thrill-seeking, protest, vandalism, or theft of metals.

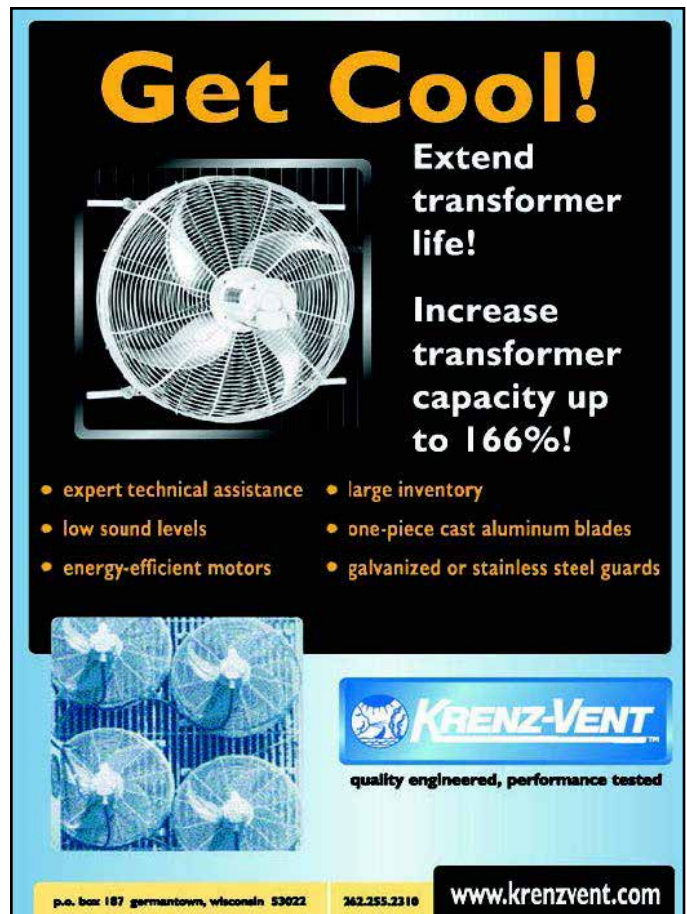
To dissuade this type of behavior and limit any potential liability, safety warnings are posted on poles, towers, fences surrounding substations, and at entry points to restricted areas. The brightly colored signs that warn the public of "Danger!" "High Voltage Overhead," "Electrocution Hazard," or to "Keep Out." International symbols related to electrical hazards as well as safety colors such as



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red, orange, or yellow are often included. "Climbing a transmission tower can be a life-threatening event, risking extreme liability, if warnings and precautions do not comply with OSHA, ANSI, and other regulatory standards," says O'Connor

To remain ANSI compliant, the signage or tags must not only retain its readability, but the color distinctions must be maintained as well over the long term.

"We always make sure our signs are OSHA/ANSI compliant," explains O'Connor. "However, it is not just what the sign says, but also its colors. A safety red must stay red for the life of the sign, or it may no longer be considered compliant with OSHA

regulations, even if it has been twenty-five years," says O'Connor.

With the stakes of quickly restoring power to urban areas so high today, utilities need to effectively utilize industry best practice signage, tags, and markers to help their technicians quickly, safely identify and resolve any issues in transmission towers and poles. Those that do so will benefit greatly over the long term in increased uptime and safety while substantially reducing labor, maintenance, and potential liability.

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Company Profile: Rome Plows



Company Name: Rome Plow Company

Headquarters: Cedartown, Georgia, USA

Founded: 1932

Industry: Agricultural and Industrial Equipment Manufacturing

Overview

Rome Plow Company, commonly known as Rome Plows, is a leading manufacturer of heavy-duty tillage and land-clearing equipment. Since its founding in 1932, the company has specialized in producing some of the most durable and powerful plows in the world. Best known for their rugged disc plows, Rome Plows are widely used across agriculture, forestry, construction, and military applications, earning the reputation as *"The World's Largest Independent Manufacturer of Tillage Equipment."*

History

Rome Plow was established in Cedartown, Georgia, during the early 20th century, initially serving

the needs of farmers in the Southeastern United States. The company quickly grew into an internationally recognized brand by pioneering robust plows and earthmoving equipment capable of handling tough soil, dense vegetation, and large-scale land development projects.

During the Vietnam War, Rome Plows became especially notable when the U.S. military adopted their massive land-clearing plows, mounted on armored bulldozers, to cut through dense jungles. This cemented the company's reputation for producing some of the toughest land-clearing equipment in the world.

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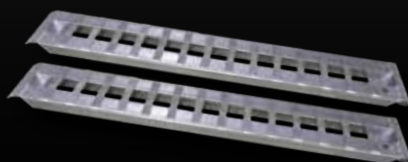


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