Work on back-lot areas of the Hydro-Québec distribution system is complex at times. Trucks cannot be brought in, and there are often obstacles such as fences, hedges, ditches and guy-wires. The line worker must be attached to a wood pole in order to do the job.

**A simple and safe tool**

For work in a wood pole, Hydro-Québec requires the use of a lifeline and a rope grab. However, this fall prevention system has the disadvantage that line workers must use a second strap to get past obstacles – a painstaking method that forces them to attach and re-attach themselves several times. The Institut de recherche d'Hydro-Québec (IREQ) has therefore developed a simple and safe device to facilitate the line worker’s job when moving up and down a pole.

**New insulating hook**

Line workers now have an improved device that includes an insulating hook. The hook is permanently attached to the lifeline by means of a lanyard and a rope grab. This enables workers to climb poles and clear obstacles safely, without having to constantly detach and re-attach themselves.

**Main advantages**

- Easy to hook and unhook from the pole-top using a telescoping hot stick
- Includes a strap that can be used in working position for greater freedom of movement
- Meets CSA dielectric and mechanical standards
Other uses

In Canada and the U.S., electrical utilities as well as telecommunications and cable companies are concerned about the safety of workers who have to climb wood poles. This hook could also have new and interesting applications in other types of work at heights, such as on bridges, buildings, roofs and dams.

For information

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