



A series of bulletins intended to keep members informed and safe

Number 9
December 4, 2008

Subject: Working Alone Aloft in the Dark

Since November 2007, members of the joint TWU/TELUS Policy Health and Safety Committee have been working on procedures and a hazard assessment form for members who may be required to work alone aloft in the dark. The Committee recognizes the hazards that confront members who must work under these conditions, and have been working towards reducing or eliminating the potential for injury. To this end, the Committee has made much progress and the Working Alone Aloft at Night program is currently at the stage where trials of the procedures, equipment, training and hazard assessment form will be rolling out in two areas of British Columbia: Vancouver Island and the Upper Fraser Valley area.

The Committee will be reviewing the results of these trials and making any necessary recommendations before rolling the program out to other areas. Results will be brought back to the Committee in January 2009.

For the training, Corporate Safety has produced a PowerPoint presentation and a series of short videos to be given at safety meetings. The training package will include how to set up the lighting equipment and the requirement not to cause glare to oncoming vehicles.

The hazard assessment form is an extensive checklist that must be completed to determine if it is safe to proceed under the circumstances. The checklist also includes Work Area Traffic Control (WATC) diagrams to assist in proper set-up of vehicle and lighting.

TELUS is required to provide appropriate training and equipment to employees before they can safely work aloft alone in the dark. Members are required to perform their job in a safe manner and follow all safety procedures so they don't expose themselves to undue hazards. Climbing in the dark is a hazardous activity. It is imperative that everyone does their part to make working conditions safe.

Remember, one of the basic rights for employees is the right to refuse work that they believe presents a danger to themselves or another employee.

The demands of the service or the importance of the job are never so great that we cannot do the job safely.

Visit the TWU Health & Safety webpage at www.twu-canada.ca/safety/english.shtml.

TWU National Health & Safety Committee