1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this procedure is to:
- Ensure that a comprehensive pole top rescue plan is in place on a site where an electrical hazard may require an employee to be rescued from a pole top.
- Ensure that employees have received the proper training to perform a pole top rescue.
- Ensure that rescue equipment is available, properly inspected and maintained.

2. Scope

2.1 Ardent pole top rescue procedure shall be used on any Ardent job site that could require an Ardent employee to perform work on an Overhead Power Line (OPL) pole or other OPL structure.

3. Regulatory References

The Pole Top Rescue Procedure is primarily intended to satisfy the following regulatory requirement:
- 1910.269(a)(2)(i)

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Management

- Ensure that the HSE Management system includes a Pole Top Rescue Plan and that the program is reviewed annually and revised as necessary.
- Provide Pole Top Rescue training for all employees performing work that requires climbing and performing work from an OPL pole or other OPL structure.
- Ensure that safe work practices and procedures are written, followed, and revised as necessary.
- Provide leadership and support for employees in communicating their responsibility to stop the work when unsafe situations are discovered. Provide resources to address and correct any fall hazard issues as they arise.
- Maintain all documentation required by this program.
2.2 Supervisors

On a site where an electrical hazard may require an employee to be rescued from a pole top, the Line Supervisor is responsible for the following:

- Understand and enforce the Pole Top Rescue Plan
- Ensure that only qualified employees perform work on an OPL pole or structure
- Ensure that the Pole Top Rescue Plan has been reviewed, is relevant to the job and is understood by all employees working on an OPL pole or structure
- A rescue plan is in place and personnel are fully trained to implement the plan
- A pole top rescue kit is available and laid out ready for use when required
- A trained rescuer is always in attendance with the rescue kit when a climber is aloft
- The rescuer has the relevant competencies and has re-qualified within the past 12 months, and if working near electrical hazards, the rescuer is also competent in resuscitation techniques
- Proper communications between the ground and employee working aloft are established and maintained throughout OPL operations
- Depending on the location and type of work, any necessary additional equipment is provided
- Immediately inform management of any violations or any other unsafe work practice or situation.
- Ensure that all Pole Top Rescue training is recorded in the Ardent Employee Information Base
- Conduct inspections to identify deficiencies
- Guard and correct all deficiencies immediately

2.3 Employees

- Understand and follow the requirements of the Pole Top Rescue Plan.
- Do not perform any work that requires working on an OPL pole or structure unless properly trained and authorized.
- Ensure that the Pole Top Rescue Plan has been reviewed and is understood prior to all climbing activity.
- STOP THE WORK and immediately inform your supervisor if you believe an operation is unsafe or presents hazards that have not been identified in the daily JSA.
- Follow all the safety rules regarding the Pole Top Rescue Plan
- Participate in daily JSA and hazardous work recognition activities. Make every effort to identify fall hazards during JSA’s.
- Wear all appropriate PPE.
- Inform your supervisor of concerns regarding OPL hazards in the workplace.
5. Hazards

The hazards associated with a Pole Top Rescue are as follows:

a. The rescuer may contact the hazard, which could cause injury to the victim. The victim may still be caught up in live electrical conductors.
b. Loose material, tools or equipment associate with the work that the victim was carrying out.
c. Live electrical equipment on the pole or structure.
d. Projections, ropes, cables, and the like that might snag or entangle the rescuer during the rescue effort.
e. The rescuer and/or the victim fall due to equipment failure or incorrect operation

6. Qualified Rescuer

On a site where an electrical hazard may require an employee to be rescued from a pole top, a Qualified Rescuer must be on the ground in the immediate vicinity to the work and must:

➢ Have a pole top rescue kit including climbing gear and rescue equipment
➢ Be trained and qualified in CPR, releasing a person from live electrical equipment and rescuing a person from an OPL pole or structure
➢ Be able to effectively use communications equipment in the case of an emergency.

7. Policy

a. **Stop the Work**- All employees are authorized to stop the work immediately and inform their supervisor if they believe an operation is unsafe or presents hazards that have not been identified in the daily JSA process.
b. **Qualified Employees**- Only trained, qualified employees shall perform work on an OPL pole or structure
c. **Qualified Rescuer**- A pole top rescue kit and person trained in its use must be available on site and the kit laid out in an appropriate manner whenever an employee will be working on an OPL pole on or near live low voltage conductors.
d. **Employee Training**- All employees required to work on an OPL pole or structure shall receive Pole Top Rescue training.
e. **Communication**- Communication with the employee working on the pole shall be maintained. The Qualified Rescuer must have an unobstructed view and be within earshot of the person working aloft.
f. **Perform an OPL Pole Assessment**- An OPL Pole inspection must be performed by the front-line supervisor and a pole climbing permit must be issued prior to any work on an OPL Pole or structure
g. **Safe work procedures and Job Safety Analysis**- A Pole Top Rescue Plan and a Job Safety Analysis shall be developed and followed to protect employees working on an OPL pole or structure.
8. Procedure

When an employee is working on an OPL pole, it is essential that a rescue plan and resources are available. A person who is uninjured but unable to descend or a person who is injured and unable to help themselves must be rescued.

Pole Top Rescue

1. The qualified rescuer must contact the Electrical Systems Operator, advise of the emergency, and request assistance. If other persons are nearby, the rescuer must communicate with them and request assistance while the rescue is initiated.
2. The qualified rescuer must proceed to the Pole Top Rescue Kit, put on the prescribed climbing gear, and prepare for the rescue.
3. Climb to a position just below the victim.
4. Check for electrical hazards.
5. If necessary and safe to do so, the rescuer should position himself clear of the drop area of the victim and free the victim from the live low voltage equipment.
6. Check that the victim’s airway is clear, and that the victim is breathing. If the victim is not breathing give the victim two quick breaths.
7. Split the hand line and throw one end over the cross arm approximately 12 inches from the pole.
8. IF THERE IS NO CROSSARM, improvise with whatever equipment that is available. For example, make an attachment point by driving a screwdriver deep into the pole with the blade crossways to the grain. To make sure it can withstand the pressure, drive the screwdriver well into the pole with no consideration for recovery (see Diagram 1).
9. Twist the load line around the fall line TWICE to gain adequate friction to lower the victim safely and easily.

10. Place the load line under the victim’s arms and tie a knot at about face level.
    *Always tie or snap the loose end above the knot.

11. Remove as much slack as possible from the hand line.

12. Remove your knife from its sheath and take a firm grip on the tail of the load line. Be prepared for a sudden load on the tail of the load line when the victim is cut away from the pole.

13. Cut through the victim’s pole strap and/or the webbing link on the victim’s rope grab device to detach the victim from the pole or structure.

14. Carefully lower the victim to the ground by paying out the hand line to control his descent.

15. Descend the pole and check the victim for:
    - response
    - air way
    - breathing
    - circulation

16. If necessary, begin CPR as required.

9. Incident Reporting

Any incident that requires the rescue of an Ardent Employee or subcontract employee shall be reported immediately to the onsite manager and/or the business unit manager. The onsite supervisor will either lead or participate in the incident investigation and will inform the Ardent business unit if he/she requires assistance from the Ardent Safety Manager. The onsite supervisor will be responsible for completing and providing all required documentation including all resolutions or corrective actions. As a minimum, Ardent supervisor shall follow Incident Investigation and Reporting procedures established in the latest revision of Ardent “Safety Manual”

The following shall apply:
- All incidents resulting in injury or loss of consciousness of an employee and fall incidents where no injury is obvious shall be investigated.
- All failures in protection systems or other control methods not resulting in an actual rescue but with the potential for requiring a rescue (e.g., near miss) shall be investigated.
- An investigation shall be initiated immediately following the incident.
- The investigation team shall include at least one person knowledgeable in the work area and fall protection systems involved.
A report shall be prepared following the investigation that includes the following minimum information:

- Date of incident
- Date investigation began
- Description of the incident
- Factors contributing to the incident
- Recommendations resulting from the investigation

10. Reporting and Recordkeeping

10.1 Reports – Pole Top Rescue related incidents shall be reported.

10.2 Incident Report - All Pole Top Rescue incidents resulting in injury or loss of consciousness of an employee and Pole Top Rescue incidents where no injury is obvious shall be recorded as Incidents on an Ardent Incident Report.

10.3 Near Miss Reports – All failures in protection systems or other control methods not resulting in an actual rescue but with the potential for requiring a rescue shall be recorded as near miss events on an Ardent Near Miss Report.