

WISHA REGIONAL DIRECTIVE

*Department of Labor and Industries
Division of Occupational Safety and Health*

18.45 HIGH VOLTAGE NIGHT PATROL REQUIREMENTS

Date Issued: September 18, 2006

I. Background

A portion of the code dealing with high voltage work addresses patrolling overhead power lines from public highways at night. WAC 296-45-385(16) states, "While on patrol at night and operating a motor vehicle on the public highways, there shall be two employees, at least one of whom shall be a journey level lineworker or otherwise a competent or qualified employee. If repair to line or equipment is found to be of such nature as to require two lineworkers, work shall not proceed until additional help has been obtained provided that in cases of emergency where delay would increase the danger to life, limb, or substantial property, one employee may clear the hazard without assistance."

II. Scope and Application

This WRD provides guidance to DOSH enforcement and consultation staff regarding the application of WAC 296-45-385(16) and will remain in affect indefinitely. It replaces WRD 18.45, issued September 2, 2002 which is hereby rescinded.

III. Interpretive Guidance

Does WAC 296-45-385(16) apply to supervisory and management personnel?

Yes. WAC 296-45-385(16) applies to all employees of the employer when conducting the patrols in question and otherwise subject to the standard, regardless of whether they are management employees.

Approved: _____

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For further information about this or other WISHA Regional Directives, you may contact
DOSH Compliance Operations at P.O. Box 44650, Olympia, WA 98504-4650 -- or by telephone at (360) 902-5460.
You also may review policy information on the DOSH website (<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety-health/>)