## Live Line Tools

1. **Inspection**

* Confirm the live-line tools are of proper design for the construction task before each use.
* Wipe clean live-line tools and visually inspect them for defects before use.
* Look for the following conditions: If any conditions are defective immediately remove live-line tool from service.
  + Surface contamination.
  + Cut or broken glass fibers on the tool. Damaged fibers reduce the strength and insulating protection of the tool.
  + Cracks running the length of the tool (caused by crushing the tool). If this type of damage is found, immediately replace the tool.
  + Surface chipping.
  + Damage from high heat or physical abuse.
  + Loose or broken fitting.
  + Light spots accompanied by a noticeable roughness. This type of damage is from hard blows, impacting the material or carelessly dropping tools on the ground. Surface ruptures caused by bending or twisting**.**

1. **Cleaning**

There are several manufacturers of live-line tool care products. Products include silicone wipes for daily care and cleaners and waxes for long-term care.

**Cleaning in the Field**

* Visually inspect the fiberglass and metal portions of the tool.
* Wipe the entire tool with silicone or other approved hot stick wipe; this will remove dust, dirt particles and oil from the surface of the stick.

**Long Term Care**

* Routine cleaning with soap and water will extend the life of your tools.
* Wash all surfaces with a wet, clean, soft cloth and approved soap.
* Do not immerse the tool in water.
* Take care not to damage the fiberglass surface.

1. **Waxing**

After a live-line tool is thoroughly cleaned, protect it with a coat of approved wax.

* Use a clean, soft cloth to wax.
* Rub briskly over the entire fiberglass surface.
* Avoid sharp corners that may trap wax.
* Change cloths as necessary to prevent rubbing dirt into the surface of the fiberglass.
* Wipe off excess wax.
* Let it dry to a dull haze.
* Wipe off the residue with a clean, soft, dry cloth.
* Rub to a high luster and be sure to remove all waxy residue.

1. **Primary Employee Protection Tools**

All live-line tools that are designated as Primary Employee Protection Tools must be removed from service every two years for cleaning, inspection, repair and testing. Also, if a Primary Employee Protection Tool is found to have a defect, such that might be discovered after wiping or cleaning, the tool must be sent for cleaning, inspection, repair and testing.

* Inspection Repair and Testing
  + Each tool will be thoroughly examined for defects.
  + If a defect or contamination is found, the tool shall be repaired and refinished and then tested. If the tool is deemed unrepairable, it will be removed from service and destroyed. If no defect is found, the tool shall be cleaned and rewaxed and tested.
  + The voltage applied during the test must be as follows. 246,100 volts per meter for each foot for 1 minute if the tool is made of fiberglass. 164,000 volts per meter will be applied for 1 minute if the tool is made of wood.