

INTRODUCTION

Part of our continuing effort here at HASTINGS is to provide you, the customer, not only quality hot line tools but also with the same quality of customer service. It is for this reason that we would like to share our skills and expertise with you regarding the proper care and maintenance of your hot line tools.

As you, the end user, are well aware the technology and manufacturing processes to build hot line tools is constantly improving. We are aware of the fact that some wooden hot sticks are still being utilized.

However, because of increased technology and updated regulations, the emphasis of these remarks will be directly related to the care and maintenance of fiber glass tools and not the older style wooden hot stick.

NEW TOOL TESTING

Each hot stick that leaves HASTINGS has passed a dielectric test with an electrical gradient of 100KV per foot in accordance with industry standards such as ASTM, OSHA and IEC. In our test facility the glass being tested is monitored by sensitive micro-ammeters during the test which will completely shut down the test equipment if there is either a flash over or if the leakage current exceeds the allowable levels.

An employee must manually remove any piece of fiberglass that fails the test. The failure is then reported to the department supervisor and our engineering department for analysis. The stick may or may not be destroyed during the analysis but it will be destroyed. No stick that fails the dielectric test is used for any reason. Once the manufacturing process has been completed and the hot stick has been packed and shipped, proper care and maintenance is turned over to you.

FIELD CARE OF TOOLS

In the daily use of your hot stick, precautions should be taken to prevent contamination or moisture build-up. Many of you can probably recall your first day on the line crew when you put a hot stick on the ground and heard – “Hey! Don’t lay that hot stick on the ground!” From that point on you knew that special precautions must be taken in the handling of hot sticks. It might have involved leaning the stick up against your line truck or maybe a nearby tree.

In the event your job involves several hot sticks, a tarp or a tool rack is recommended.

If your hot sticks are still reasonably clean and glossy, a daily inspection and a thorough wiping of the stick to remove dust and other contaminants is still recommended to maintain the dielectric strength of the tool.

FIELD CLEANING

A silicone treated wiping cloth will do the job of wiping down the stick. By doing this you are also adhering to OSHA Rule 1926.951:Sub-Part V: Tools & Protective Equipment. This rule states

“All live line tools shall be visually inspected before use each day. Tools to be used shall be wiped clean and, if any defects are indicated, such tools shall be removed from service.” This rule is also printed on the package that the silicone cloth is shipped in.

As this stick is being wiped down not only is the dust being wiped off but, by using a silicone treated cloth, a fine silicone film is being deposited on the surface of the stick. This will aid in repelling water and contamination helping to maintain the dielectric properties when the tool is used under wet or adverse conditions.

If the marks or contamination on your hot sticks are more than what can be removed by simply wiping down the stick, a hot stick cleaner wipe should be used. If the contaminants on your hot stick are more than the silicone cloth or cleaner wipe can handle, then we recommend using All Purpose Cleaner.