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### Temporary Service Grounding Electrode Alternative Method

Although utility location had been conducted through “Dig line”, contractors have driven ground rods through gas lines and power lines while performing the installation of temporary services for construction. Representatives from Idaho Power, the Damage Prevention Board, DBS, Electrical Contractors and the Idaho state legislature met to discuss alternative methods to driving ground rods for temporary service installations.

To provide an alternative method of grounding electrode installation for temporary poles that maintain effective safety the following was determined.

It is my opinion that the installation of a temporary service that meets the following parameters will establish and maintain effective safety.

1. Service is to be a maximum of 100 amps mounted on minimum 4”x6” Pole
2. Base of pole is to be 30” in ground
3. At least 20’ of #4 copper is wrapped around the pole and secured to the base of the pole (see pictures attached)
4. A sticker is to be applied to the service substantially stating the following, “Grounding Electrode installed using an alternative method of conductor wrapped at base of pole”
5. GFCI protection required on all receptacles, branch circuits or feeder conductors leaving temporary service.
6. Inspectors may require inspection to verify depth of hole before pole is backfilled.

It is my opinion that this installation reduces the risk to electricians, who are driving ground rods for temporary installations, of hitting underground utilities such as gas lines or power lines

This is an alternative method of grounding electrode installation. Other jurisdictions are not required to approve these installations. Electrical contractors are not required to utilize this alternative method. It is important to call “Dig Line” before any excavation takes place for the installation of poles, ground rods or other grounding electrode systems.

It is the responsibility of the electrical contractor to ensure the Authority Having Jurisdiction of the electrical installation approves these types of installations. This is a 90.4 alternative method decision that Warren Wing, Electrical Program Manager for the state of Idaho has given special permission to state of Idaho inspectors to make.

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**This Temporary Power Pole Utilizing A Ground Ring At Base Of Pole For Grounding Purposes**



**WPI causes death, serious injury or substantial property damage.**  
Turn off power whenever this equipment is being worked on.



**SAFETY**  
If you are working on a safe environment is required.  
Disconnect all equipment or energy sources before you start to work on the circuit.

