



Oregon

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Building Codes Division Statewide Interpretation

PROGRAM: Electrical Program
SUBJECT: Light Pole Disconnecting Means
SOURCE: City of Eugene
REFERENCE: 2005 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code
DATE OF ISSUE: Re-Issue April 1, 2005
PREPARED BY: John Powell
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QUESTION: Are fuse-holders with a break-away feature suitable for use as the disconnecting means in stand alone light pole installations ?

ANALYSIS:

The issue of a disconnecting means for light poles has existed for several years. Industry practice has been to use fuse-holders as the means to disconnect the light pole circuits for maintenance and repair. A light pole is considered a structure as defined by Article 100 of the 2005 National Electrical Code. Articles 225.36 and 230.66 require the disconnecting means to be suitable for use as service equipment and marked as such.

DETERMINATION:

The requirements set forth in 225.36 and 230.66 can, in some instances, create a circumstance of additional or higher hazard than the use of suitable fuse-holders. In single light pole installations that have the connections to the light pole circuit made in a location typically accessible only to qualified persons, the use of approved, certified fuse holders shall be allowed. In circumstances where the use of a fuse-holder creates hazards greater than the use of a service rated and marked disconnecting means, the service rated and marked disconnecting means shall be used. Coordination between the installer and inspection authority will reduce conflicts and should occur prior to installation.