The purpose of this policy is to establish the requirements for the use of Personal Voltage Detectors (PVD). A PVD is not a substitute for personal caution around energized facilities or for other PPE requirements.

The following parameters establish the minimum criteria for the mandatory use of a PVD within ED Missouri – Distribution Services and Energy Delivery Technical Services.

Personal voltage detectors shall be worn by employees when patrolling the distribution system on foot, investigating a downed or “low” wire, or while performing other emergency response activities, on foot, during normal work assignments or storm restoration.

Personal voltage detectors do not have to be worn when performing work inside a substation fence, when working with known energized conductors or when the line is de-energized, tested, and grounded.

This policy sets the minimum standards for use of the PVDs. Employees may exceed the standard and wear the device whenever they think it will increase safety and awareness.

A Job Briefing must occur before any job begins. If the use of a PVD is required, the briefing will include checking the operation of the PVD (pushing the test button). The briefing should include a review of the proper location of the PVD on the body and the possibility of false positive signals from the PVD. Other issues that should be considered include not walking under lines, minimum approach distances from line, securing the area, etc.

The PVD must be used per the manufacturer’s instructions. Before using a PVD an employee must have training in its use and limitations.