

NESC and OSHA Newsletter

January 3, 2017



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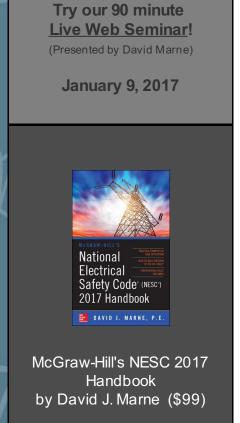


For the next several newsletters, we will discuss significant changes to the 2017 NESC Code Rules. The topic for this newsletter is...

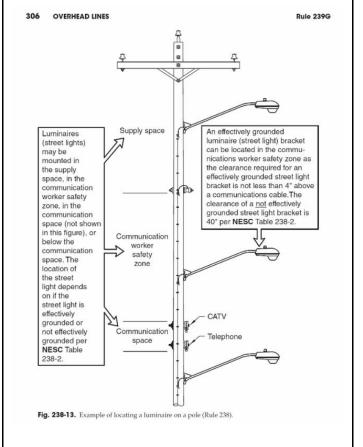
NESC Rule 238C and Table 238-2: Vertical clearance of span wires and brackets from communication lines and equipment

Before we discuss Rule 238C, it is important to note that Rule 238E defines the Communication Worker Safety Zone (CWSZ). A common clearance value for the CWSZ is 40 inches but the clearance can be more for higher voltages or the clearance can be less when exceptions apply. Per Rule 238E, "Except as allowed by Rules 238C, 238D, and 239, no supply or communication facility shall be located in the communication worker safety zone." Of the items discussed in Rule 238C, a bracket carrying a luminaire (light fixture) is probably the most common item found in the CWSZ. A major change in the 2017 NESC can be found in NESC Table 238-2. The clearance for a **NOT** effectively grounded street light bracket changed from 20 inches above messengers carrying communication cables to 40 inches. In other words, for a street light bracket to be in the 40 inch CWSZ, the street light bracket must be effectively grounded.

Fig. 238-13 from <u>McGraw-Hill's NESC 2017 Handbook</u> is shown below for more information.



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