

Electric Demonstration Board - Currents

Audio Description

The video opens with two male PG&E workers wearing helmets, rubber safety gloves, and safety glasses standing behind a table. On the table is a model of a house with a grassy outdoor area and small-scale electric transmission lines. There's also a "danger" sign on the table. There are figurines of people as part of the model. The PG&E workers and demonstration table are in a public lobby area at the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Throughout the video the two men demonstrate dangerous "live electric line" scenarios with the model and figurines. The crowd, composed mainly of families with young children and teens, watches the demonstration standing behind a safety barrier. The male narrator, who we do not see, introduces the two PG&E workers behind the table – Daniel Martinez and Loren Peterson. Daniel, who is about fifty years old, wears a dark button-down PG&E shirt, yellow safety glasses and has a well-trimmed mustache and beard. Loren, who is about the same age, is taller, clean-shaven and wears grey safety glasses. As Daniel describes several danger scenarios to the crowd, he touches various parts of the model, including the transmission lines, with a rubber safety stick. As parts of the model, like the antennae on the house, contact the lines we see and hear actual electricity flow between them. As Daniel talks about these safety lessons, we witness the impact of the demonstration as the audience gasps when the electricity sparks and arcs. Next, Tabitha Garcia, a PG&E customer, parent, and Cub Scouts leader talks. Tabitha is in her forties, has her dark hair pulled back in a tight bun, and wears brightly colored lipstick. As she talks we see the PG&E workers giving happy young boys their rubber safety gloves to try on. The last shot in the video has word "currents" and has the web address www.pgecurrents.com.

Transcript

- [Matt Nauman - Narrator] Keeping the public safe is PG&E's top priority, that's why the company has been working tirelessly to improve the safety of its gas and electric operations. One key aspect of safety is education. That's why two PG&E electric workers were at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco recently. Daniel Martinez is an electric crew foreman in San Francisco, and a 28-year PG&E employee. Loren Peterson is a trouble man, an electric first responder, he's been with the company for 24 years. The men demonstrated how to be safe around electricity by avoiding hazards.

- (Daniel Martinez) So we have here is a 12,000 volt, scaled-down version of our distribution system. And some of the hazards I'm gonna run through we actually have come across in real life. Here we have a home owner who wants to install

an antenna, on the roof of his house, and he's not really aware of his surroundings. Right above him is a 12,000-volt circuit. The thing about electricity is you don't see it, you don't hear it until it's too late. So he puts his antenna up there in the wires and... He just became electrocuted. You notice that I didn't even have to touch the wire, just came close enough to it, where it started the arc. Right now you see nothing but it's still going through him.

- [Narrator] PG&E has shown it's electric demo board more than 350 times this year. It has appeared at fairs and festivals, at corporate and civic events, and at other functions. More than 5000 people have watched the demonstration. The kids reactions are the best actually. Watching them smile or watch their eyes light up when you see that wire ignite, and it's pretty good. And, um, some of the adults, some of the questions they have, not realizing what is out there, and actually thanking me for coming out and showing them what are the potential hazards. It does feel good, coming out.

- [Daniel] Watching trees and ladders, and people come in contact with live wires usually produces a gasp from the audience. It makes for a memorable lesson.

(Tabitha Garcia) The demonstration was great, it was very interactive as far as catching peoples' attention just from them walking by. I saw a lot of kids really stop and listen to what the gentlemen had to say, which caught my attention as well. I am a Den Leader for my son's Cub Scout troop, and we're always looking for ways to teach the boys about safety, and this was I thought of a wonderful way especially for curious boys, to learn the safety of the electricity and what it can do and how they can tell other people how scary it can be and how they should stay away from it.

- [Narrator] Daniel Martinez talks about safety when he's on the job too. He's gratified that his safety lessons are having an impact.

- (Daniel) Engaging the public around our system is very important. I do it every day when I'm out in the field working. I have questions, asked, even about gas stuff which I don't even really involved in. I can try and answer to the best of my ability or I direct them to the people who can answer it for them. Education is definitely a big part of it. Making the people aware of it. Even ourselves too, good to refocus on safety and to make sure that we do our job right. This redefines us as a company, and we're going in the right direction.

- [Narrator] For Currents, I'm Matt Nauman.