

## Re: O.T. Step Potential ...

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.repair/2008-04/msg00724.html>

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- *From:* Smitty Two <[prestwhich@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:prestwhich@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 15 Apr 2008 09:40:34 -0700
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In article <[4aWdnZ6319OvV5nVnZ2dnUVZ\\_u6rnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:4aWdnZ6319OvV5nVnZ2dnUVZ_u6rnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>, "Michael A. Terrell" <[mike.terrell@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:mike.terrell@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

It all boils down to  
Ohm's law, and the current path to every point that is well grounded.  
If you have no other choice, you want to take as small of a step as possible, but a pair of dry shoes add a lot of protection. It's possible that the ground might only be 10 feet from where the wire touches the ground. If that is a 7200 volt line, that would be 720 volts/foot. In that case you would get a shock, even if you are standing on one foot.

I'm envisioning an episode of Man vs. Wild here...

"I'm being dropped down into a veritable electrical minefield, with hundreds of writhing high tension lines covering the ground for as far as the eye can see. I'll show you how to thread your way through this potentially (sorry) lethal maze by using your pocketknife to fashion a crude voltmeter from an eyeglass hinge, a bootlace grommet, and some carefully woven root fibers from the native weeds."

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