

*A New Idea Applied To An Old  
Tool Makes Replacing Cutouts  
Safer And More Efficient*



# LITFINGER

UK LitFinger Lights The Way

# UK's LitFinger makes work on fuse barrels, cutouts, switches and disconnects safer and more efficient



Working on fuse barrels, cut outs, switches, and disconnects is one of the most difficult jobs facing linemen.

Struggling to illuminate a fuse at the top of a 40-foot pole with a spotlight or flashlight is hard enough. Then add in telephone and cable lines, transformers and tree limbs, which always seem to cast shadows on the work area.

Don't forget rain, snow and fog which further reduce visibility. Of course, there are some locations so inaccessible that you can't even get your truck to the base of the pole.

It's not only a difficult job. It's a hazardous one, too. Falling fuse barrels also can seriously jeopardize a lineman's health. In fact, utilities have been rushing to purchase safety equipment that protects linemen from accident and injury. Inadequate equipment like truck-mounted spotlights translates into lost productivity and greater risks to your safety - and lost revenues for your utility.

## **LitFinger**

### **Designed by Linemen for Linemen**

But what if there was a better mousetrap for working on fuses? A product designed by linemen for linemen? Enter LitFinger - a specialty light for use in hot stick operations in dark or unlighted areas for changing out fuses on electrical poles. Lightweight, durable, and virtually indestructible, LitFinger shines light directly on your work area - with no shadows, adjustments, headaches, or hassles.

LitFinger was developed by fellow linemen who know firsthand

# Designed by Linemen for Linemen

the challenges of working on fuses.

Underwater Kinetics (UK) took the design ideas and created the LitFinger product. UK has been manufacturing high-end lighting solutions for the utility, industrial, first response, government, and dive and sport industries for more than 30 years.

New high brightness LED technology now makes it possible to design a product like LitFinger. Incandescent lamps were the only option until recently, and they were far too fragile to be used in products like this.

LitFinger has a universal spline connector and attaches to hot sticks made by all the major manufacturers. And its large push button for operating the unit means that you don't even have to take off your rubber gloves to turn it on.

## Built to Take a Beating

To find out just how tough the LitFinger is, UK turned to ArcWear in Louisville, Kentucky. It is a leader in arc testing for the utility industry. Hugh Hoagland, the company's president, has been conducting arc tests for more than ten years.

Hoagland decided to put a LitFinger through the paces, first exposing the unit near a typical arc blast. LitFinger suffered no



In designing the LitFinger, UK applied Finite Element Analysis to achieve maximum strength and durability.

damage and worked flawlessly. Hoagland decided to up the ante, and put LitFinger near arc blasts 10 and 20 times the normal exposure and temperature. LitFinger still suffered no damage and performed perfectly - even after being subjected to a 2,000-degree arc blast!

Curious as to how much heat the LitFinger could withstand, Hoagland put it directly in the path of an arc blast. The temperature reached 35,000 degrees, and although the unit's casing was damaged, the light and button still worked!

"I was extremely impressed by LitFinger's performance. This is a phenomenal tool for working on fuses," said Mr. Hoagland. "Even after being exposed to a 35,000-degree arc blast, the LED still cast a bright beam."

## Light Weight but Unbreakable

LitFinger was engineered to be able to withstand the harsh environment of a lineman's job, yet light enough to be an agile tool. Once the basic shape and size were determined, UK engineers spent considerable time reducing its weight without compromising its structural integrity.

LitFinger was then subjected to the toughest tests: It was drop tested, pull tested, and optimized using computer stress analysis. The findings show that it is strong, durable, and lightweight. It also can withstand heat, cold, and rain without failing.

"UK has been making products for the utility industry for decades, but we are especially proud of

## LITFINGER SURVIVES 30,000° ARC BLAST



Hugh Hoagland of ArcWear stated that "Even after being exposed to a 35,000 degree arc blast, the LED still cast a bright beam."

LitFinger," said Alan Uke, president. "Linemen will find that LitFinger is a safe, durable tool that makes it significantly easier to work on fuses."

# LitFinger Designed by Linemen for Linemen

## About UK

UK designs and manufactures flashlights, waterproof cases, and other accessories for the industrial, first response, government, and dive and sport industries' most demanding applications. UK is located in Poway, CA and has more than 30 years of experience in the development of these products. For more information visit the UK website <http://www.uwkinetics.com>

## Purchasing UK's LitFinger and Utility Products

Companies interested in purchasing the LitFinger or other UK products should contact UK directly for the nearest sales representative.

800-327-7388

[info@uwkinetics.com](mailto:info@uwkinetics.com)



## A QUICK LOOK AT THE LITFINGER

Feature	Benefit
It has a bright, one-watt LED light	Your work area will be fully illuminated without any shadows
It's extremely light - only an ounce more than a standard finger (6.3 oz. with batteries)	You have an incredibly bright light at the end of your stick ...and the cost is only one ounce
It has a lightweight aircraft grade aluminum body	LitFinger is extremely durable
The case is water-resistant and resistant to flash and electrical fields	You'll never have to worry about your safety
It has a pointed end for removing ice or debris, a notch for holding the fuse securely, and a hook for hanging it on a pole	It's a work tool that has everything you need to do your job quickly, safely, and easily
Designed to work with or without the LED light.	It can be left on your pole all the time and used day or night

## FEEDBACK FROM THE FIELD

A number of major utilities are testing LitFinger including Duke Power, SDGE, Public Service of New Hampshire, Santee Cooper, American Electric and Power, First Energy, National Grid, Northeast Utilities, Allegheny Power, Orlando Utilities, Lakeland Electric, Duquesne Light, Sumter Electric Cooperative, and Pike Electric.

Users say that the product is a giant step ahead of existing solutions.

Robert Padgett, a lineman training specialist at Lakeland Electric, observed: "LitFinger is much better than holding a spot or flashlight. It will save linemen time on the job because they can leave it on their stick, day or night."

Mr. Padgett also added, "I like this product very much. It is so surprisingly lightweight that you can't tell it's at the end of a stick. I am sure it will be an asset to any utility."

Orlando Utilities only had praise for LitFinger: "Traditional lights cast shadows, but LitFinger puts the light exactly where it is needed. It is an excellent tool with a bright light and eliminates the need for a handheld light."

Rudy Draughn at Pike Electric said, "Everyone who saw LitFinger thought it was an idea whose time had come. It will be an excellent tool for nighttime assignments and for use during storms."

Richard Vencus at Northeast Utilities noted that LitFinger will help linemen do their job more efficiently and that the unit has a rugged design.