

ACCIDENT REPORT

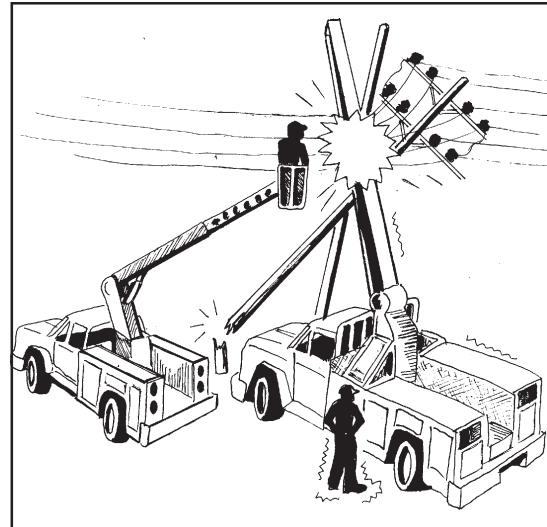
DISASTER FACTS



• U.S. Department of Labor • Occupational Safety and Health Administration • Kansas City Region VII No. 59

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: Electrocutation
Weather Conditions: Clear, sunny and windy
Type of Company: Electrical Service
Provider & Distributer
Size of Work Crew: 4
Union or Non-Union: Union
Worksite inspections conducted: Yes
Competent safety monitoring on-site: Yes
Safety and Health Program in effect: Yes
Training and education for employees: Yes
Craft of employees: Electrical line
utility workers
Age/Sex: (1) 37/Male
Time on the job: 5 years
Time on project: 5 hours



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A crew of four men were dispatched to replace and upgrade a utility pole. One crew (working out of an insulated aerial lift) was in the process of removing the hardware from the old pole. The other crew was positioned underneath the lines, working with the digger derrick truck that was being used to lift the new pole off the ground so that it could be outfitted with new hardware. The employee working out of the aerial lift had removed the neutral line off the old pole and was maneuvering up the pole to remove the primary, but he had to remove the guy wire before the primary could be taken off the pole. The employee had removed the guy wire from the pole when an apparent gust of wind caused the old pole to shift and break at its base, and the primary line fell into the digger derrick's extended boom, thus energizing the truck. The employee apparently was not touching the truck, but was in such proximity that he was apparently electrocuted from the step potential energy flowing through the soil.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The employer should ascertain, prior to removal of equipment, that the elevated pole structure is capable of sustaining the additional unbalanced stress. The pole needs to be braced or otherwise supported to prevent failure.
2. Lifting equipment needs to be bonded to an effective ground or barricaded when it is utilized near energized equipment or lines.
3. De-energize equipment prior to work being performed.

SOURCES OF HELP

• OSHA Standards, regulations, documents and technical information are available on the Internet World Wide web at: <http://www.OSHA.gov/>. That information also is on CD-ROM, which may be purchased from the Government Printing Office, phone (202) 512-1800 or fax (202) 512-2250, Order No.729-13-00000-5; Cost \$79 annually; \$28 quarterly.

• For hard copies of OSHA Construction Standards [29 CFR Part 1926], which include all OSHA job safety and health

rules and regulation covering construction, contact Government Printing Office, phone (202) 512-1800, fax (202) 512-2250, order number 869-022-00114-1, \$33.

• OSHA-funded free consultation services listed in telephone directories under U.S. Labor Department or under the state government section where states administer their own OSHA programs.

• OSHA Safety and Health Training Guidelines for Construction, Volume III

(Available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161; phone (703) 487-4650; Order No. PB-239-312/AS. \$25 to help construction employers establish a training program.

• Courses in construction safety are offered by the OSHA Training Institute, 1555 Times Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018, (847) 297-4810, and the Metropolitan Community Colleges Business & Technology Center, 6899 Executive Drive, Kansas City, MO 64120, (816) 482-5210.

Note: This case described was selected as being representative of improper work practices which likely contributed to a fatality from a fall and/or electrocution. The accident prevention recommendations do not necessarily reflect the outcome of the legal aspects of the incident case. Your company or organization is eligible to receive one free copy of this leaflet which you may duplicate and share with your co-workers. To be placed on the distribution list, send your name, title and address to: U.S. Department of Labor-OSHA, 1100 Main, Suite 800, Kansas City, MO 64105, Attn. TECFAP, or e-mail to dearing-cynthia@dol.gov.