

DISASTER FACTS

U.S. Department of Labor • Occupational Safety and Health Administration • Kansas City Region VII No. 29



ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: Electrocutation

Weather Conditions: Sunny, warm

Type of Company: Power pole replacement

Size of Work Crew: 5

Union or Non-Union: Union

Worksite Inspections Conducted: No

Designated Competent Person on Site: Yes

Employer Safety and Health Program: Yes

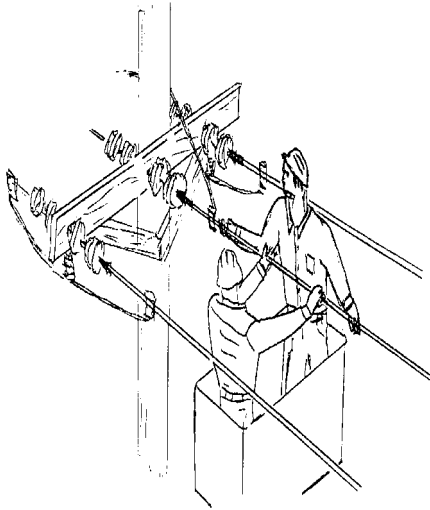
Training and Education for Employees: Yes

Craft of Deceased Employee: #1-Journey Lineman/Foreman
#2-Apprentice Lineman

Age/Sex: #1-37/Male, #2-29/Male

Time on the Job: 5 hours

Time at the Task: Years



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 regulations 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.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A double electrocution accident occurred at a chemical plant while workers were in the process of stripping out a wood electrical pole that was to be replaced as part of a scheduled turnaround at the plant. The work involved employees of both the host chemical plant and contracted electrical company working on two 13.87KV circuits and a 2400 volt circuit. At the time of the accident there were three different electrical companies working in various parts of the plant, but only this crew was working on the high voltage lines while attempting to energize one of the 13.87 KV circuits. An accident occurred when the 2400 volt circuit became accidentally re-energized while both employees were between the lines holding one of the lines.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Employees of each company should coordinate and use the worker protection program of the electrical contractor including lockout/tagout of the affect circuits where possible by each representative employee.
2. Lines should be tested for dead using a recognized testing procedure. Because of the low voltage, phase testing should not be used as it is not recognized as a safe means of testing for 2400 volt circuits. (Bright sunlight and high background noise can make the test appear negative and the circuit to appear to be dead when it is energized.)

3. Grounds should always be placed prior to starting any work on high voltage lines, and remain in place until the work is completed. Grounding provides additional protection should the lines become energized.

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.