

ACCIDENT REPORT

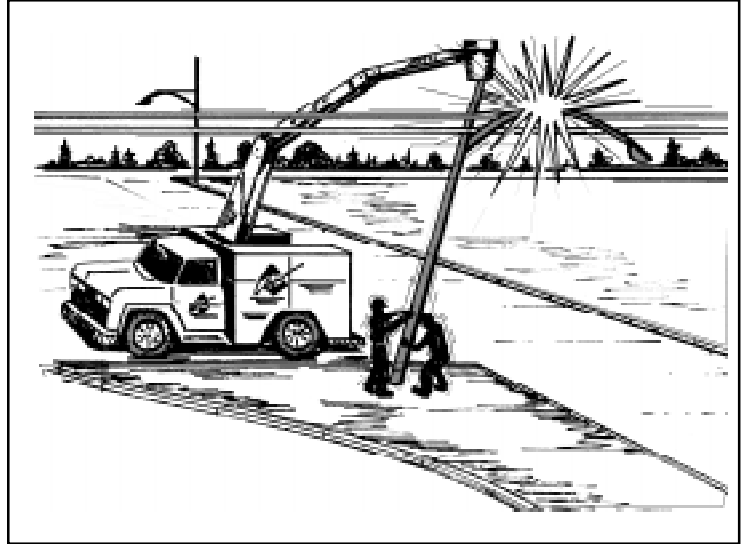
DISASTER FACTS



• U.S. Department of Labor • Occupational Safety and Health Administration • Kansas City Region VII No. 35

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: Electrocution
Weather Conditions: Partially sunny, windy
Type of Company: Street light pole installation
Size of Work Crew: 3
Collective Bargaining: Yes
Competent Safety Monitor
on site: No
Safety and Health Program
in effect: Yes
Work site inspected regularly? Yes
Training and Education provided: Yes
Employee #1 Journeyman Lineman/Foreman
Age/Sex: 32/male
Employee #2 Apprentice Lineman
Age/Sex: 25/male
Experience at this type of work: #1 - 9 years, #2 - 3 years
Time on project: 3 weeks



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A double electrocution accident occurred at the street entrance to a new home center. A three man crew was setting a metal pole using the winch on a man basket boom truck. The pole had a mast arm which swung into the nearby overhead power lines. Two of the workers grabbed the base of the pole trying to stop the swing and were electrocuted. No request had been made to have the power lines protected and the employees were working bare handed.

No means had been used to prevent the pole from swinging. The workers had not attached a tag line to the pole and did not have a cant hook or other means of preventing pole rotation. The pole was rigged using a simple choker sling connected to an open hook. The (15'3") mast arm was over half as long as the (28'3") pole was tall. They were setting the pole just 14' from the 12kv overhead lines.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The employees should coordinate and use an electrical worker protection program. Standard work procedures for setting poles in the area of energized lines should require high voltage gloves to be worn.
2. The energized lines in the immediate area should have been covered at a minimum. Isolation and grounding provides additional protection should the lines become energized.
3. The rigging should have been done in a manner that would have prevented the pole from turning and swinging freely. A cant hook, grappler, and/or tag line should have been utilized. Pole claws would have helped stabilize the pole.
4. The pole could have been set without the mast arm attached. The mast arm could have been attached later and the pole wired at that time.
5. The hook on the lift should have a functioning keeper in the closed position to prevent the load from being dislodged.
6. The pole being set could be covered with a rubber sleeve to reduce the possibility of electrical contact during the pole setting.

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.