

## ACCIDENT REPORT

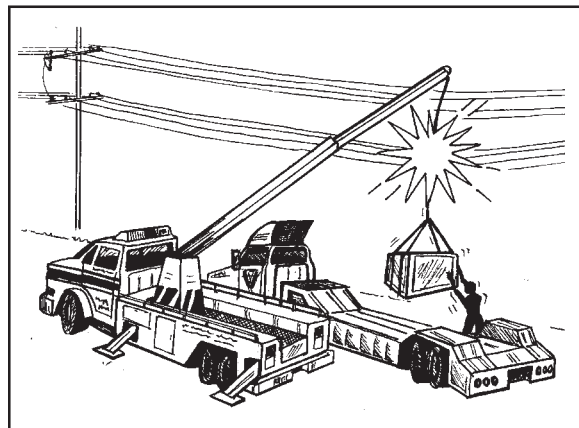
# DISASTER FACTS



• U.S. Department of Labor • Occupational Safety and Health Administration • Kansas City Region VII No. 62

### ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: ..... Electrocutation from  
overhead power lines  
Weather Conditions: ..... Clear and 83 degrees  
Type of Operation: ..... Railroad construction  
and maintenance  
Size of Work Crew: ..... 2  
Union or Non-Union: ..... Union  
Worksite inspections conducted: ..... No  
Competent safety monitoring on-site: ..... No  
Safety and Health Program in effect: ..... Yes  
Training and education for employees: ..... No  
Craft of employees: ..... Truck driver  
Age/Sex: ..... 52/Male  
Experience at this type of work: ..... 15 years  
Time on project: ..... 5-10



### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

Two employees were in the process of unloading a piece of equipment from a trailer using a crane. The trailer was parked adjacent to overhead power lines. One employee was operating the crane, and the other was on the ground attaching the load and signaling the crane operator. When the equipment was being lifted off of the trailer, the equipment and load lines swung out into the overhead power lines. The employee on the ground had his hand on the load when it came into contact with the overhead power lines and was electrocuted.

### ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Do not operate a crane where part of it is within 10' of electrical distribution or transmission lines rated 50kv or below, unless the lines have been de-energized and visibly grounded, or erect insulating barriers not a part of, or an attachment to the crane, to prevent physical contact with the lines.
2. Employees should be kept clear of loads about to be lifted and/or suspended loads.
3. A person shall be designated to observe clearance of the equipment and give timely warning for all operations where it is difficult for the operator to maintain the desired clearance by visual means.
4. The employer must ensure that employees are qualified through training and experience before operating equipment and machinery.
5. The employer must comply with the manufacturer's specifications and limitations applicable to the operation of cranes or derricks.
6. The employer must instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and regulations applicable to his/her work environment to control or eliminate any hazard or other exposure to illness or injury.

### 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](mailto:dearing-cynthia@dol.gov).