

ACCIDENT REPORT

DISASTER FACTS



• U.S. Department of Labor • Occupational Safety and Health Administration • Kansas City Region VII No. 70

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: Electrocution from Overhead Power line
Weather Conditions: Cold
Type of Operation: Installing lightening Arrestors on overhead Power Pole at night
Size of Work Crew: 2
Collective Bargaining: Yes
Worksite inspection conducted: No
Competent safety monitoring on-site: No
Safety and Health Program in effect: Yes
Training and education for employees: Minimal
Craft of employees: Lone Lineman /Splicer
Age/Sex: 35/Male
Time on job: 9 years
Time at task: 1 day



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

Two employees arrived at the job site and were setting up equipment to start work. They got into the bucket of the truck and boomed up about 40 feet and assessed the situation. They observed the fuse bar in the open position and both assumed the fuse switch and bottom wires from the fuse were de-energized. They started working and while booming up to install the copper ground wire, one of the employees came into contact with the fuse switch resulting in an arc that caused one employee to catch fire.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Consider all overhead power lines and other electrical equipment as energized unless they have been tested by appropriate methods each day prior to beginning work or when conditions change.

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 cynthia.dearing@osha.gov.