

ACCIDENT REPORT

DISASTER FACTS



• U.S. Department of Labor • Occupational Safety and Health Administration • Kansas City Region VII No. 45

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: Electrocution
Weather Conditions: Clear and sunny
Type of Company: Painting contractor
Size of Work Crew: 11
Union or Non-Union: Non-Union
Designated competent person on-site: Yes
Safety and health program None, written programs only
Worksite inspections conducted Yes
Training and Education of employees Yes, but no training with
..... respect to looking out for
..... overhead power lines.
Craft of injured employee: Painter
Age/Sex: 44/Male
Time on the job: 3 months
Time at task: 4 hours



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

An employee had been taping off one of the third story windows, and was in the process of moving his 32 ft. aluminum extension ladder when it contacted a 7,440 volt overhead power line. The overhead power lines were three phase 7,440 volt lines. Employee interviews indicated that prior to the accident the employees had received no training on the potential hazards associated with working around overhead power lines. The employee died later from complication associated with his electrical shock.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Institute a training program and train all employees in the hazards associated with working around overhead power lines and appropriate safety precautions to be taken including the use of personal protective equipment.
2. Gut wrap the overhead power lines in the area when employees are working next to overhead power lines.
3. Discontinue the use of aluminum extension ladders around overhead power lines and only use non conductive fiberglass extension ladders.

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.