



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC  
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

*A reciprocal exchange managed by Federated Rural Electric Management Corp.*

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

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Federated's Near-Miss Program is designed to identify and communicate incidents and hazards experienced by cooperatives nationwide. The data collected can be used by your system to develop training programs designed to eliminate future accidents. This report is provided to you as a training tool to review with employees in an effort to eliminate future incidents.

**Corrective Action** is the action taken by the group reporting the incident.

**Possible Corrective Action** is provided as another possible action that could be taken based on the limited information available.

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**Task Performed**

**Report #1**

ROW Clearing/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Employee was cutting down an oak tree. As the tree started to fall, the employee turned to walk away. When the tree hit the ground, branches on the tree caused the tree to push backwards and roll, rolling on the employees ankle.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

Clear a good retreat path, ensure a safe distance when felling a tree, and never take your eye off the tree until it is securely on the ground. Discussed all options with the employee and went over the proper felling procedure.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #2**

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Rolling up pulling tape on reel. The tape tightened, pulling the reel rack off of the truck and knocking employee off of the truck as well.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** No**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes**Corrective Action Taken**

Secure all equipment to prevent falling/tipping over.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #3**

Vehicle/Transformer Shop

**Incident Summary**

Driver was leaning in the drivers door to grab a pencil from center counsel and hit his head on top of door opening, while wearing hardhat. Felt slight pain in his neck. Driver was fine in the morning, but then had neck pain and headaches in the afternoons. Repeated in and out of truck seems to aggravate.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes**Job Briefing Conducted -** No**Corrective Action Taken**

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Slow down and maybe remove hardhat before leaning in.

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**Task Performed****Report #4**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew needed to change out some bells on a deadend pole. Called in to have sub/circuit put on HLT. Switching had been done by contractors and the circuit to be worked on was now fed out of a different sub. This was not caught by either the crew or dispatch. Nothing adverse happened but the crew did work on the line without any one shot protection

**Safety Equipment in Use - Yes****Job Briefing Conducted - Yes****Corrective Action Taken**

Engineering is adding a layer to the maps to show any switching to show real time switching to help both the crews in the field and dispatch identify/confirm if the system is out of its normal configuration.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #5**

Driving

**Incident Summary**

Employee was driving the bucket truck into the garage with garage door open. Apparently, the guy who opened the door accidentally pushed the close button before the truck got inside the building. Door came down on the back of the bucket, causing some small damage to the door.

**Safety Equipment in Use - No****Job Briefing Conducted - No****Corrective Action Taken**

Slow down and pay attention to what is going on.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Install safe beam to insure door will not close when beam is obstructed.

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**Task Performed****Report #6**

Meter Work

**Incident Summary**

A member had been disconnected by the meter reader. Boots were put on the meter, in the morning hours, for non-payment. Dispatch received a call that this member had part power when dispatcher looked up the account. They realized this account should have been disconnected. Meter reader returned to the site and found one of the boots had a hole in it, letting part power into the house. Boot was replaced.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes**Job Briefing Conducted -** No**Corrective Action Taken**

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #7**

Substation Work

**Incident Summary**

High side fuse was blown on substation transformer. Small animal apparently started an arc on a distribution re-closer. The arc had went to ground on both line and load side of the re-closer. Animal had fallen to the ground and fault was cleared. All distribution re-closers were open and line switch was opened isolating transformer. All equipment was visually checked and no damage to equipment was found. High side fuses were replaced and substation transformer was re-energized from line switch. Upon re-energizing, oil sprayed from the transformer narrowly missing employees. If transformer had been energized from the high side fuses instead of the line switch, at least one employee would have been drenched in oil.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes**Corrective Action Taken**

Re-energize from as far from device as feasible.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

**Task Performed****Report #8**

Driving

**Incident Summary**

We had loaded the trencher on the trailer and was booming down. Upon checking hookup on the truck, it was noticed that there was a gap between the pindle ring on the trailer and the trailer frame. When inspected closer, the bolts were loose attaching the pindle hitch to the trailer. The bolts could not be tightened, so the trailer was taken out of service until it could be fixed.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes**Corrective Action Taken**

Regular trailer inspections should be performed. Safety training on trailer inspections should be facilitated.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #9**

Driving

**Incident Summary**

Crew was headed to jobsite and was following digger derrick truck. Guys saw something fall off of the truck. When they stopped to check it out, they found it was the auger tip. Digging in frozen ground must have sheared the bolt off and couldn't see it was gone because of dirt. Employees need to be aware this can happen and inspect it. Fortunately, the crew was paying attention and saw the auger tip fall and they were fortunate the digger wasn't the last truck.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes**Job Briefing Conducted -** No**Corrective Action Taken**

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

**Task Performed****Report #10**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

The crew was converting line to 25kv. The crew was checking lightning arresters in 3-phase pad mount transformer to make sure they were correct voltage. The crew saw one arrester was not seated correctly and when they pushed it into position, the arrester failed and opened cutout. This was a routine project, nothing visibly wrong with the installation. The crew was using all PPE and no injuries occurred.

**Safety Equipment in Use - Yes****Job Briefing Conducted - Yes****Corrective Action Taken**

Next time they see an arrester unseated, they will remove and replace with new arrester and not assume it wasn't installed correctly to begin with.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #11**

Meter Work

**Incident Summary**

The crew shut the power off by throwing disconnect lever down to the off position, reached in with ratchet wrench to loosen clamps on left hand fuse, which was blown. It contacted ground wire and drew an arc. The disconnect failed to disconnect C phase power, resulting in back feed to the bottom of A phase lug. Fortunately, worker had on winter gloves, which prevented them from contacting the live line.

**Safety Equipment in Use - Yes****Job Briefing Conducted - No****Corrective Action Taken**

Don't assume all power is off. Verify with a volt meter.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Follow Lockout/Tagout procedure.

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**Task Performed****Report #12**

ROW Clearing/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Lineman was cutting down trees and didn't see a broken off branch in top of tree. As the tree started to fall, the broken off branch dropped and came close to hitting the lineman cutting down the tree and another lineman bystander. The crew was wearing all the required PPE.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes**Corrective Action Taken**

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #13**

Driving

**Incident Summary**

Employee was picking an order and tried to grab three corrugated units at once instead of just one at a time.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes**Corrective Action Taken**

The most you pick up or carry on the forklift, at one time, is a maximum of two units.

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #14**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Our crew was working on a job to replace an existing 3 phase line with new poles and eventually reconductor. While setting a new 40' pole, 2 men were in the bucket truck tagging center phase up and out of the way of the pole location, a crew member was operating the line truck setting the pole and a crew member was on the ground guiding the pole towards the pole hole. In the process of getting the pole into position the claws on the line truck came into contact with an energized phase, causing an OCR(on one shot) to trip, resulting in an outage.

**Safety Equipment in Use - No****Job Briefing Conducted - Yes****Corrective Action Taken**

No employee shall approach or take any conductive object without an insulated handle closer to exposed energized parts of line or equipment than indicated in Table A-14 (which is 2' 2" at this voltage) of this manual unless the employee is insulated from the energized parts, the energized part is insulated from the employee and any other conductive object at a different potential, or the employee is insulated from any other conductive object.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #15**

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Lineman was attempting to restore power in an ice storm, lineman woke up customer to ask for UTV to get across low, wet, soft ground. Lineman was backing out of the way of the customer and struck a grapple tooth on the loaded bucket of a tractor. The grapple tooth hit the bucket which put a large crack in the fiberglass.

**Safety Equipment in Use - Yes****Job Briefing Conducted - No****Corrective Action Taken**

Walk around should have been performed with a flashlight before backing up. Also back up camera was on bucket truck but was covered in mud.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A



**Task Performed**  
Office/Facility Incident

**Report #16**

**Incident Summary**

The door to the garage was open fully and as bucket truck was being pulled into garage the garage door started to close. The garage door snagged on the bucket and the door broke.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Install safe beam to insure door will not close when beam is obstructed.

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**Task Performed**  
URD Restoration/Repair

**Report #17**

**Incident Summary**

Opened door to pad mount transformer and snake fell on foot.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

Always be cautious when opening pad mount doors.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed**  
ROW Clearing/Maintenance

**Report #18**

**Incident Summary**

Trimming evergreen trees. Holding branch when saw kicked back and cut index finger on left hand.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

Be aware of obstructions

**Possible Corrective Action**

Maintain positive control of saw and use proper PPE.

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**Task Performed****Report #19**

Public Liability

**Incident Summary**

Outage called in. Line was patrolled and found phases wrapped & neutral torn down. Met a sand & gravel truck and there was fresh gravel on the road.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes**Corrective Action Taken**

Inform gravel trucks to watch for wires over the road. Keep discussing with customers to be aware of their surroundings

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #20**

ROW Clearing/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Linemen was digging hole with digger derrick and flood water splashed into another linemen's mouth causing the employee to get ill.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes**Corrective Action Taken**

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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