



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**

Driving

**Incident Summary**

While parking the pole trailer, employee jack-knifed the trailer into the back of the truck, bending the release pin on the jack that allows the trailer to extend/retract. Driveway was not a full circle.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted** - Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

2nd employee in the vehicle should assist in backing up to watch and direct.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Conduct a Circle of Safety check prior to backing.

If a second employee is available, have them spot you as your backing.

If possible, park in a place that doesn't involve backing.

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

ROW Clearing/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Employee was cutting ROW. Had cut tree down and was in process of cutting the tree stump off flush with the ground. As he was cutting the stump the employee tripped on undergrowth/brush; and as a result fell on the chainsaw. The saw came into contact with the upper leg of the employee. The employee had chainsaw chaps on and the chaps immediately shut the saw off and protected the employee. The employee was fine with no injury.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Clear around the area where a chainsaw will be used to prevent tripping and falling hazards. This also includes making sure you have an escape route while felling a tree.

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

Material Handling/Securing

**Incident Summary**

A warehouse employee was pulling wire from a spool mounted on a 9-spool wire rack. It was noticed that the right support structure of the wire rack was out of alignment, allowing the wire spool bar to move side to side out of its proper position. As wire was being removed from the spool, the bar became dislodged from the rack, causing the wire spool to drop approximately 6 inches onto the spool positioned below. Another employee was by the trailer preparing the materials for the line crew, but was not in an area that the spool would hit him. The operation was immediately stopped. A fork lift was used to reposition the spool into its original location and the bar was reinstalled securely.

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

The procedure for this operations calls for the employee pulling wire to stand out of the line of fire in a safe location.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Inspect equipment before use.

As soon as a hazard is found all operations should cease until the hazard is corrected.

Make sure all employees are out of the way while operating a piece of equipment.

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**Task Performed**  
OHD Restoration/Repair

**Report #4**

**Incident Summary**

After arriving at the location of an outage report, serviceman verified the meter was de-energized. He then placed his ear on the pole to see if the CSP transformer was humming and discovered that it was making a gargling/boiling sound. The decision was made to not boom up so he attempted to remove the hotline clamp with his long stick and the stick broke due to the hotline clamp being frozen in place. Next, he asked for someone to go to the tap source in order to de-energize the line. While waiting, he began making up his material on the ground and he noticed the transformer spit a small amount of oil out. He decided to move a bit farther away from the pole and within 2 minutes the transformer exploded. The explosion was large and with burning oil blowing out. The lid was found approximately 50 feet away.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** No

**Corrective Action Taken**

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

De-energize as quickly as possible.

If electrical apparatus's are making unusual sounds, smoking or leaking oil, stay a safe distance away until they can be de-energized.

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**Task Performed**

Driving

**Report #5**

**Incident Summary**

Employee parked truck to go work on metering. When he returned he did a walk around the truck and found children playing in front of and behind his truck. He would not have seen them without the walk around.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** No

**Corrective Action Taken**

Recently implemented cone at back of truck to initiate walk around before truck moves.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Conduct a Circle of safety Check before driving any vehicle.

Install cones when parking a vehicle to encourage the driver to do a walk around.

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

Driving

**Incident Summary**

Driving on the highway, looked in rear view mirror and saw the ladder sliding off the truck onto the road.

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

Check everything to ensure it is secured before driving.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Make sure all equipment is stored and secured properly on vehicle before driving.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

We were setting a C8 switch pole in an energized line. Two linemen caught the field phase off in the new shoes. They made their jumpers up and closed the switch to keep the line energized. When they cut the conductor it slipped out of the shoe. The jumper from the switch to the phase was holding the entire span up. Upon investigation, it was found that the deadend shoes were made with the wrong size parts.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Inspect all material before use.

When deadending a conductor, slowly release pressure on the shoe to make sure clamps will hold.

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

Public Liability

**Incident Summary**

A report came into the cooperative that a delivery truck had hit a guy wire. The line crew went to check status. When crew arrived they found a lift pole had been tore down. Some one had reconnected the service wire to the chimney on the house with the wire coiled up on the roof and still hot . Line crew reported incident and disconnected service. Follow up investigation found no one willing to admit to anything.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Have a Public Powerline Safety Program.

Conduct PowerLine Safety to your members at different events.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

I took an apprentice to go retire an old power line. First, we filled out a job briefing covering everything that was needed for the specific job. We started at the take off pole and hammer tested the pole before I ascended. Next, I dropped the jumper to the phase, de-energizing the tap. Then I proceeded to let the neutral and phase down using a grip and hand line. Next, we went to remove the guy wire and guy wire attachment. As soon as I removed the attachment, the pole broke at the base and started to fall. The pole fell until the outside of the cross-arm was around 5 feet from the ground.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Appendix D of 1910.269 explains three methods of inspecting and testing wood poles

Hammer test - Rap the pole sharply with a hammer weighing about 3 pounds, starting near the ground line and continuing upwards circumferentially around the pole to a height of approximately 6 feet. The hammer will produce a clear sound and rebound sharply when striking sound wood. Decay pockets will be indicated by a dull sound or a less pronounced hammer rebound.

Prod the pole as near the ground line as possible using a pole prod or a screwdriver with a blade at least 5 inches long. If substantial decay is present, the pole is unsafe.

Rocking test - Apply a horizontal force to the pole and attempt to rock it back and forth in a direction perpendicular to the line. Exercise caution to avoid causing power lines to swing together. Apply the force to the pole either by pushing it with a pike pole or pulling the pole with a rope. If the pole cracks during the test, it is unsafe.

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

Public Liability

**Incident Summary**

An outpost lineman from the Generation and Transmission Cooperative came upon a situation along the highway where a contractor had put a bucket into a power line. The contact caused the tires to blow and start a grass fire under the truck. The Power line melted and fell onto the highway where cars were sitting at a red light. The area lineman rushed up, put out the grass fire and blocked off traffic. Contractors and first responders wanted to move the line to get traffic moving again. The lineman stood his ground, stating that everyone needed to stay back and wait for the electric cooperative that owned the line to arrive because the line could be energized. When the owner of the line arrived, the line was tested and it was indeed energized. We consider this a near miss because if our lineman would not have been on that scene, the contractors and first responders would have potentially lost their life because the line was energized.

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

In this instance, our policy is that we don't work on lines that are not owned by us. This is why the lineman just had everyone standby until the line owner arrived.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Conduct Powerline Safety Programs to all emergency responders in your service area.

Conduct Powerline Safety Programs for area organizations and schools.

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