



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC  
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

January / 2020

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**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

#### **Incident Summary**

Lineman was putting outriggers down and was not aware of his surroundings. He put the outrigger down on another crew members foot. The employee was not injured, but the steel toed boots were damaged.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted** - Yes

#### **Corrective Action Taken**

Employees must wear dielectric protective footwear when working in areas where there is a danger of foot injuries.

#### **Possible Corrective Action**

1910.269(p)(2)(ii)

Outriggers may not be extended or retracted outside of the clear view of the operator, unless all employees are outside the range of possible equipment motion.

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Member called in and stated a pick-up hit the guy wire & split the top out of the pole. Went to the site & pole was split from top down about 4 foot. We replaced the bad pole.

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

Have a program to educate the public on power line hazards.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Material Handling/Securing

**Incident Summary**

Crew was unloading large steel poles from flat bed trailer. When they unstrapped the trailer, the poles rolled off nearly falling on one of the workers.

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

Stay clear of the load while loading and unloading material.

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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

Material Handling/Securing

**Incident Summary**

While using the boom to unload a transformer in the pole yard, the bolt holding the auger tip broke allowing the auger tip to fall to the ground catching a worker's pant leg and tearing a large hole in his pants.

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

There is no specific rule because this item is not supposed to break loose and fall to the ground. We have changed to a different style of auger and are increasing the frequency of the inspections of the auger bolts.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Employees should stay clear of elevated loads & material.

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

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was unloading a 25 kva padmount transformer. One of the the lifting bolts came out of the transformer. Fortunately the transformer was within a foot of the ground when the bolt came out. Transformer slid out of sling, landing on basement.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Make sure employees keep their body parts out of the way of falling hazards.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was attempting to put more rake into a new construction deadend pole. They had a 3/4 ton jack on the guy wire attempting to put slightly more rake into the pole. When jack came tight and wasn't gaining any ground, they decided to put a 3 ton hoist on to continue. Crew member went to the other end of the job to get jack, and in the mean time, crew was at the digger derrick getting more material ready when the 3/4 ton hoist exploded. No one was close to the guy wire or injured.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Do not exceed the safety limits placed on tools.

Do not lift more than rated load on hoists.

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

6A copper wire broke, on the load side of pole, as soon as shotgun stick was installed into hot tap. The lineman was in a position where the line did not fall on him or equipment. The line broke within 4 inches of the tie-on, an A1, and remained energized on the pole and insulator until de-energized at the breaker.

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

Remove hot tap with shotgun.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Make sure no equipment or employees are below a line when hot taps are being opened.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

While cutting in a new A-1 installation, crew found and repaired a bad section of 6A copper weld wire. In the process of moving energized wire, newly installed automatic splice failed and primary wire fell to the ground.

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

Policy rules were in place and followed. No crew members were underneath the work area when primary was being moved.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Employees should stay clear while conductors are being moved.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

A cooperative crew and a contract crew were both working on a circuit coming out of sub. B and C phase on the circuit that had been de-energized at sub, leaving only A phase energized. B and C phase were grounded at sub. The contract crew was working it hot, but the cooperative crew cut an open spot in A phase and grounded all three phases at this spot. Just outside the sub, further up the line, where neither crew was working, the hot A phase broke mid span. It was on arms and not tied in, so it swung up into the B phase energizing it until the OCR at the sub opened.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Ensure clear communication with all participants working under a clearance.

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

Substation Work

**Incident Summary**

While closing a gang-operated switch in the substation, which brought power to the low-side structure from the station transformer, a portion of the switch mechanism failed. The switches were partially closed, so the structure was energized. When the switch mechanism failed it fell free from the handle side and swung down, still attached to the switches, nearly hitting the energized jumpers below it. After de-energizing the station transformer it was determined that there was less than one inch of clearance between the jumper and the portion of the switch that had come loose. It appears that when the switch was installed it was not fully threaded together and that the threaded insert just pulled out of the brass fitting, allowing the switch to fall apart.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Complete a thorough inspection prior to operating switches. Ensure clearing devices are in proper setting before operating switches.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was on-site for a meter pole changeout. The CSP transformer was tripped to de-energize the secondary conductor feeding the pole. The meter was visually checked and the display was blank. When the wire was cut loose one phase of the secondary was still energized. No injuries.

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

Always test conductors and equipment after de-energizing.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Establish an open airgap when deenergizing equipment.

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

Substation Work

**Incident Summary**

Cooperative received outage calls due to a substation tripping off-line. Crew arrived at substation to find high side bushings had flashed over and had been damaged. One employee noticed that there was an animal on top of the transformer that appeared to be dead and it was assumed to be in that condition due to the damage to the high side bushings. As the employee climbed up to remove the animal from the transformer it came to its feet and jumped off the transformer.

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

None

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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