



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

URD Construction/Maintenance

#### Incident Summary

A contractor was potholing to expose foreign primary underground cable for system improvement. Once the excavator got within 3 feet of the URD, they began to hand dig with a fiberglass-handled shovel. The contractor's employee was wearing rubber boots and leather gloves while hand digging in the sand to expose the underground primary open concentric cable. The contractor's employee contacted the open concentric cable, the cable faulted, and a small arc occurred. The crew stopped all operations and identified that the cross-poly insulation on the foreign URD was unstable. The line was de-energized and the remainder of the line was replaced.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes

Job Briefing Conducted - Yes

#### Corrective Action Taken

The foreign URD was de-energized and replaced.

When potholing to located underground utilities for system improvement, the cables shall be de-energized to eliminate electrical hazards.

#### Possible Corrective Action

All marked underground utilities should be identified by potholing before mechanized excavation begins.

Use caution when uncovering underground utilities.

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### Incident Summary

Crew B was on the north side of a line rebuild. Crew A was on the south side at the source. Old line was secured in layout arms. New line was pulled in and tied in. Crew B was to remove grounds. Once removed Crew A was to energize new line. Then crew B would parallel new line to old line on an A4 structure. Once crew B removed the ground he shaped the wire into position to get ready to jumper old line to new line. When he finished shaping jumper, he assumed crew A had energized down to him. He went ahead and squeezed the line onto energized conductor thus energizing back to the source. Crew A went up to get ready to make the jumper, while cutting the tape off the jumper they heard the line "buzz". They then found out that crew B energized the line back up to them. Crew A had all proper PPE on so no injuries occurred.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes

Job Briefing Conducted - Yes

### Corrective Action Taken

Next day we had a safety stand down and discussed this incident. It was discussed that no one is to just assume anything.

Use radio communication so everyone understands what is going on.

Be sure to have a qualified observer on the ground.

### Possible Corrective Action

Switching and procedures should be discussed and confirmed during job briefing before beginning the job.

Always use a "Qualified" Designated Observer while conducting energized work.

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Task Performed  
Office/Facility Incident

Report #3

#### Incident Summary

We recieved our rubber gloves from the testing facility. We had five gloves that failed the test. This means we had five employees using faulty gloves without knowing it. It is often overlooked to field test rubber PPE at least daily.

Safety Equipment in Use - No

Job Briefing Conducted - No

#### Corrective Action Taken

Reminded employees to field test rubber goods at least daily because one contact wearing failed PPE between opposing potentials could be fatal.

#### Possible Corrective Action

Conduct a visual inspection of all rubber protective equipment before each use.

Conduct a visual and an air test on rubber gloves prior to each use.

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Task Performed  
URD Construction/Maintenance

Report #4

#### Incident Summary

While conducting some underground switching, I went to the transformer I believied I was supposed to be at. I radioed my journeyman to plug the elbow on and energize the cable to me. He plugged the elbow in and radioed that I should have a hot elbow. Upon testing I discovered my elbow to still be dead. I communicated this to my journeyman and he asked what transformer I was at. I turned my attention to the line section label on the door and realized I had gone to the wrong transformer. I radioed the information to my journeyman and he removed the fuse. Due to my mistake, I caused the floating elbow in another transformer on the other line section to become energized.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes

Job Briefing Conducted - Yes

#### Corrective Action Taken

Need to pay more attention.

#### Possible Corrective Action

Switching and procedures should be discussed and confirmed during job briefing before beginning the job.

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Task Performed  
OHD Construction/Maintenance

Report #5

#### Incident Summary

We were working on overhead line changing out old epoxilators. We had the truck set up and circuit set to Hot Line tag. I went to check adjacent structures, after a visual inspection I pushed up on the phase with extendo stick and the top of the insulator popped off. The phase dropped off to the side of the pole. I was able to hook it with the stick and hold it away from the pole. The circuit never opened up, and truck was set up on that pole and repairs were made.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes

Job Briefing Conducted - Yes

#### Corrective Action Taken

N/A

#### Possible Corrective Action

If pushing up on conductors to inspect insulators, make sure proper attachment is on hot stick to not allow phase to fall.

Do not stand directly underneath line while pushing on conductors.

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Task Performed  
Material Handling/Securing

Report #6

#### Incident Summary

We were changing out pole. I untied the phase and raised the wire in the clear to change the pole. I decided to take off the old armor rod and use a wraplock tie to retie the wire to the insulator. While taking the armor rod off I noticed the #4 ACSR was broke under the rod. The wire fell to the ground and opened the OCR which was on one shot. The wire did not hit either of the two other crew members on the ground.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes

Job Briefing Conducted - Yes

#### Corrective Action Taken

We had a discussion and decided when we take armor rods off we will put a strap hoist across the rod in case the conductor is broke.

#### Possible Corrective Action

Processes and procedures should be discussed and confirmed during job briefing before beginning the job.

Always use a "Qualified" Designated Observer when an employee is conducting energized work.

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Task Performed  
OHD Construction/Maintenance

Report #7

#### Incident Summary

An apprentice was left alone to deframe a pole. When he finished with the deframing, he started putting away materials and decided to put up the outriggers on the digger truck. Not realizing the boom was still extended out over the side of truck. Truck tipped onto its side.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes

Job Briefing Conducted - Yes

#### Corrective Action Taken

We reviewed the incident. Boom must be cradled before touching outriggers.

Never rely on safety overrides.

Do mental check list and use correct procedure every time.

#### Possible Corrective Action

Conduct a "Circle of Safety" check prior to lowering or raising outriggers.

Make sure an employee is qualified to do the tasks assigned to them.

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Task Performed  
Material Handling/Securing

Report #8

#### Incident Summary

Warehouse was unloading a large fiberglass box pad with a forklift. The box pad was not on a pallet but did have 4 x 4 boards under it. The truck driver decided to help hold it on the forks. When the employee lifted the pad off the truck and was lowering the pad it shifted and fell off the forks just missing the truck driver.

Safety Equipment in Use - No

Job Briefing Conducted - No

#### Corrective Action Taken

Proper load lifting techniques and load securement.

The use of provided extended forks and tag line.

#### Possible Corrective Action

Properly secure all loads before lifting or lowering.

Keep people away from a load that is being moved.

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Task Performed  
Office/Facility Incident

Report #9

#### Incident Summary

Crew was working on a circuit outage. While the crew was trying to isolate a fault the dispatcher tried re-energizing the line a few times with SCADA. The dispatcher did this without being told and without the crew knowing.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes

Job Briefing Conducted - No

#### Corrective Action Taken

Lock-Out/Tag-Out Procedures

Disciplinary action was taken.

#### Possible Corrective Action

Retrain and review Lock-Out/Tag-Out procedures.

Place devices on non-remote when possible or open switches between source and you..

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