



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

A reciprocal exchange managed by Federated Rural Electric Management Corp.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

June / 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.

Task Performed

Report #1

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

While adding material to a C4 for a C5 takeoff, the employee realized one of the existing phases had a loose nut on the eyebolt. The employee made the decision to apply his impact drill and tighten the nut because he felt there was enough threads holding the eyebolt on. After making a test spin to ensure the drill was spinning in the right direction, he applied the drill to the nut. Upon first impact of the drill, the nut popped off and the phase and material left the pole making contact with the lower phase. The substation breaker was set to the hot line tag setting and the breaker instantaneously locked out. The phase made its way all the way to the ground.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes

Job Briefing Conducted - Yes

Corrective Action Taken

For future circumstances similar to this situation, use a link stick and strap hoist to secure the phase before tightening or loosening any material.

The employee involved in this near miss attended all of our district office safety meetings and shared the information with all employees.

Continue to ensure that those employees working on the ground are in a location where if something falls from overhead they are in a safe position.

Possible Corrective Action

Employees should always use proper PPE and have the substation breaker set to hot line tag whenever they are within reach or extended reach of an energized conductor.

Task Performed**Report #2**

Substation Work

Incident Summary

Two workers were drilling holes in a metal beam inside of a substation. One crew member was operating a 120v drill while the other was squirting oil on the drill bit. The drill bit suddenly grabbed the material and was pulled out of the operators hands. The cord started to wrap around the running drill and whipped the cord end out of the connection hitting the other employee in the shoulder. Employee suffered bruising from the impact.

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

Reminded employees that heavy duty drills can be dangerous due to the large amount of torque potential.

Possible Corrective Action

Maintain proper grip while operating power tools.

Refrain from using the locking trigger feature when drilling into heavy materials.

Task Performed**Report #3**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Changing out A1 pole that was leaning from tree falling on service wire during storm the day before. Primary line was on "Non-Reclose." Pole had a 50 kva transformer on it along with OH services on both sides of line running in opposite directions. Crew cut down service on front of pole and then moved to back side of pole. When they cut that service down, the weight of the large transformer caused old pole to fall over. The boom on line truck was up and the primary wire made contact with the pole grabs of digger derrick just past the end of the installed line hose and knocked line out. Boom kept pole from falling any further. No injuries or damage to the truck, but was definitely a close call.

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

Conducted a detailed discussion with entire crew and a review was emailed to all crews due to Corona Virus. When things return to normal we will discuss in person with all outside employees.

Should have used snatch blocks to slowly lower services and relieve pressure on pole. By doing so, we would have seen pole moving slowly instead of it falling quickly.

Should have inspected pole and soil conditions more closely before starting work.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #4**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Individual outage -fuse blown on transformer. We saw no reason for fuse to have blown. We removed the meterbase cover, shut off the disconnect breakers below the meter and member shut off main breaker inside home. Using extendo stick, transformer was refused. The other lineman was standing a few feet away from meterbase to verify proper voltage. As soon as transformer was energized, fire flew up out of mast pipe and out of meterbase and breaker disconnect, blowing transformer fuse.

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

Good reminder to never pick up load with a meter.

Possible Corrective Action

Always pull meter before energizing meter base. If there is a problem on the members side, the meter being in could cause more damage.

Energize meterbase with meter out, check voltage, de-energize and set meter, energize back and check voltage again.

Stay at least ten feet away from equipment being energized.

Wear proper PPE to match the task being done.

Task Performed**Report #5**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Neutral looked like it was caught and torn down by a gravel truck. Neutral measured 18'11" from splice to the road. The gravel looked like it was a few days old. The member told us he saw the line down a few days before he called it in, but kept forgetting to call in.

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

Discussed with member the importance of reporting downed lines.

Possible Corrective Action

Continue to educate on public power line hazards.

Task Performed**Report #6**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Farmer was discing, swung wide to make a turn and hung too low into the phone line breaking a primary pole.

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

Continue to educate the public on power line hazards.

Possible Corrective Action

Constantly be looking for low lines, especially where heavy equipment and farm equipment is used.

Continue to educate the public on power line hazards..
