



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC  
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

September / 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

Substation Work

## Incident Summary

Substation techs were working in substation installing snake guard netting around outside of station fence. Techs were asked to remove a hornet nest above the regulator switches. One tech emptied a can of dielectric "Bee Bopper" hornet spray into the hornet nest using an extendo stick with spray can adaptor. The tech went to get another can of spray. All they had on the truck was a can of ACE foaming wasp and hornet killer. With the stick extended, to get a direct spray into the hornets nest, the Tech found it difficult to control the stick and pull the rope to activate can in the spray attachment. The tech called for help from second tech. The spray was directed into the nest where it foamed and began to drop onto the switches above the regulators. Having no dielectric properties the ACE foaming spray created a path for tracking across two regulator switches which caused a failure of two regulators and a ground fault event significant enough for a relay to open the high side breaker.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted** - No

## Corrective Action Taken

Discussion with all field employees on importance of dielectric properties of spray applied to bare conductors.

Removal of all Non-dielectric "Bee" sprays from all company vehicles.

"Bee Bopper" entered as regular stock item in warehouse.

## Possible Corrective Action

Conduct a proper Job briefing before beginning every job.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

A two man service crew had a work order to change out a overhead service triplex wire. During the tailgate, the foreman hammer tested the pole before climbing & found the pole to be rotten. If the lineman had climbed the pole and released the service, the pole could have fallen with him on it.

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

We sent the incident report to the local offices so that this could be discussed with every lineman.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Trash truck tore down line and broke two poles. After first broken pole was set, the lineman told apprentice to move digger to next pole and position it. The apprentice and this lineman both operated the digger to unload material and pull/set first pole. The apprentice raised outriggers to move the truck and back it into position at the next pole. He did not stow the auger or boom before beginning to move the truck. He drove past another bucket truck working on the weather head of a building. The boom came within inches of hitting the boom of that bucket truck. The bucket was raised 15-20ft with a worker in it. The apprentice did not hear the yelling of the entire crew and only realized the problem after he heard them yelling on the radio to stop. At this point he was already past the bucket truck. Total distance traveled was around 50 feet.

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

We conducted a near miss investigation.

Group discussion was had with all field workers about the incident. Dedicated job duties should be assigned by the foreman. Do not have multiple operators running the same equipment and rushing around trying to get the work done.

Apprentice stated he was rushing to get to another bucket to go complete work.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Always stow booms on derricks and aerial device before moving the vehicle.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Underground service dip (conduit) was un-bolted from pole in order to change out pole. There was no support holding the conduit, a gust of wind come up and blew the conduit over, striking the ground near a groundman and the bucket truck.

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

All equipment and hardware shall be secured to prevent injury or damage to equipment.

We talked about securing conduit whenever there is a need to remove conduit from pole.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Employee was connecting street light wire to energized service. Wire was installed in light head from manufacturer. Once street light wire made contact with energized service, an arc occurred due to wires being crossed inside light.

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

We do not have a policy in place instructing to check all pre-made connections from the factory.

Manufacturer has been contacted and made aware of the issue.

Employees will check connections before energizing.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Public Liability

**Incident Summary**

A pick-up truck drove off the road and broke the guy wire on a pole. The pole did not break. The driver did not report the incident.

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

Continue Public Education

**Possible Corrective Action**

Continue Public Education. The Safe Electricity program makes educating the public easy and provides hundreds of vetted, ready to use, customizable resources on an array of electrical hazard topics. To download these materials visit [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org). If you need assistance or have questions regarding the safety resources email [info@safeelectricity.org](mailto:info@safeelectricity.org)

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

We were attempting to pull the butt of a broken pole. The pole was broken off flush with the ground except for a few big splinters. We dug around the pole to get the chain around the butt. When we started to pull the chain slipped and choked around the splinters shearing them off and sending them flying straight at me. Pieces of the pole hit me in the chest and stomach knocking the wind out of me.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

During the Job Briefing, recognize and discuss all hazards associated with the job.

According to most digger derrick manufacturers poles or unknown weights can be estimated by using the lift cylinders. Never attempt to loosen or lift poles with the boom extension, rotation or winch. If the lift cylinders cannot raise the weight, a pole puller must be used to loosen the pole from the ground.

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

Driving

**Incident Summary**

Upon exiting the building with a bucket truck, the jib caught on the garage door. The door must not have been up all the way or came back down partially when exiting.

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

Double check to make sure the door is fully open and not moving when exiting the parking bay.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Conduct a "Circle of Safety" check prior to driving a vehicle.

Assign a spotter when backing or driving under low clearances.

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