



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC  
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

October / 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

URD Construction/Maintenance

### Incident Summary

The linemen were performing some switching on an underground circuit to isolate a cabinet to be replaced. They had closed in a 2 way feed and were pulling elbows in a cabinet to create an open, in order to isolate the cabinet to be replaced. When they pulled one elbow, the fiberglass load break tip, on the probe, was broken. A small flash occurred. All PPE was being worn at the time and no injuries occurred.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted** - Yes

### Corrective Action Taken

It is important to replace the probe if the fiberglass tip is ever broken before plugging the elbow back in. If you don't, you leave a potential hazard for the next crew who tries to pull the elbow. Replace any defective equipment.

Share all incidents that happen.

### Possible Corrective Action

N/A

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

Material Handling/Securing

**Incident Summary**

An employee was at the job site dropping off material. A fuse was thrown in and it flamed up. The employee suddenly turned around and tripped on a hole that caused him to fall.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Conduct a proper Job Briefing before beginning all jobs. Identify and discuss all hazards, including ditches or holes that employees could fall into.

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

URD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

In response to a reported pole fire, crews were assembled and a job briefing was conducted. The crews moved into position. One truck was set up, on a pole, in order to isolate downstream conductors for crews at another pole that were going to test and ground the line for repairs to be made. The lineman began by opening the field side cutout. Then, the center phase cutout was opened without incident. It was in the effort of opening the roadside cutout that trouble arose. The load break cutout door failed to open after the first and second attempt. Then, making the third attempt the stirrup connector attaching the main line to the cutout jumper broke. The subsequent arc the went across all three phases and ground, caused a significant arc flash. The lineman was working at a safe distance, below the cutouts at full stick length, from his bucket with all proper PPE. All crews immediately stopped work to rally and reassess how to proceed.

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

Wear all PPE and maintain a safe working distance when using a shot gun or finger stick.

Always be aware of possible material or equipment failure.

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Lineman was climbing a pole and a communication cable dead-end broke at the J hook. The cable fell across the road and a mail truck ran over it. The foreman tried to stop the mail truck, but the mail truck was not paying attention. After inspection, it was determined that the cable company had not properly secured the cable on the pole. The cable company used an improper attachment to hold the wire to the dead-end. Lineman was lucky he was belted above the cable going down the pole.

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

In the future, look closer at attachments before climbing pole.

Routine inspections should be done for pole attachments.

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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**Incident Summary**

Trash truck tore down line and broke two poles. Digger was being re-positioned to remove and set the second broken pole. Another crew member was in a small bucket repairing weather head on building. When the digger was moved, the mast was not stowed and the digger mast came within inches of hitting the boom on the bucket truck. Bucket was about 15-20ft in the air with crew member inside. Digger operator did not stow the boom properly before moving it.

Digger operator stated he was rushing to move the truck. He wanted to hurry and jump in another bucket to complete the first pole that was just set. There was no dedicated operator for digger.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** No

**Corrective Action Taken**

Job duties should be assigned before hazardous work commences. Knowing who is in charge of running what equipment and who is doing what part of the job is essential.

Before the work started, each person's duties should have been determined by the foreman. It should not be left up to each worker to decide who is running a digger or going up in a bucket.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Conduct a proper Job Briefing before beginning any job.

Read and follow all operating procedures in the supplied Operating Manual.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

An overhead line was de-energized due to an unknown arcing failure that could be seen from a mile away. The crew was called and had to get to the location using a 4 wheeler and in a no-radio, no cell phone location, remote from the open cut out serving the line. When it was determined that the issue was a bad hotline clamp, the crew texted the person who had previously opened the cut-out. They said, "We are on the top of the mountain, but are headed back down, it was the hotline clamp." The person, at the source, interpreted this as they had the problem repaired and they were on their way out and to re-energized the line. The crew was instead trying to update the person and had returned to the line truck to get the hotline clamp and were returning to the site to make repairs. When they arrived back at the repair site, they saw the hotline clamp spark, and knew the line was hot.

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

Always use positive communications with full clarity of intentions, and three part communication.

No line will be energized without the clear statement that, "The work is complete, men and equipment are clear of lines, and grounds are removed".

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Employee cut hand, on a staple, in material box.

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

Wear leather gloves when handling material.

Crew discussion on use of leather gloves.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was replacing crossarms on an energized circuit and while removing the old arm, crew member hit the cover up above him on the center phase.

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

When work is to be done on or near energized lines, all energized and grounded conductors or guy wires within reach of any part of the body shall be covered with rubber protective equipment, except that part of the conductor on which the employee is working on.

Crew discussions on being aware of clearances and the role of a qualified observer.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Employee was coming down in bucket to get some material. He had a 34.5KV pole top pin assembly in a bag hanging outside of bucket. The assembly almost fell out of bag.

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

Bags should not be loaded beyond capacity.

Crew discussion was conducted on not over stuffing ditty bags.

**Possible Corrective Action**

A handline should be used to raise and lower material to workers in bucket or on pole.

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Car hit a pole opening the breaker. When linemen arrived, at the scene, the occupants were out of the vehicle.

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

Continuing education to the public on safety measures.

**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, you can send an email to: [info@safeelectricity.org](mailto:info@safeelectricity.org).

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