



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

A reciprocal exchange managed by Federated Rural Electric Management Corp.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

November / 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 setting a new pole, employee didn't add slack in the conductor before moving. The conductor broke.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes

Job Briefing Conducted - Yes

Corrective Action Taken

Have another bucket come help and always add slack to line for the new pole to be set.

Possible Corrective Action

Assign a designated observer to watch work being conducted and to communicate with employee(s) doing the work.

Prior to work beginning inspect area and equipment to be worked and discuss all work procedures and potential hazards in Job Briefing.

Task Performed**Report #2**

Driving

Incident Summary

After setting up a work zone in a 35 mph roadway (signs, cones, strobes and flashers on) our flagman had a vehicle stopped. Another vehicle came up behind the stopped vehicle, locked up their brakes and swerved toward our flagman to avoid rear ending the stopped vehicle. The vehicle went down an embankment and came to a stop in a consumer's front yard narrowly missing our flagman who had to jump out of the way. The skid marks at the scene were over 60 feet long. It is believed that the driver was speeding and distracted. The driver left the scene without saying anything.

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

We have expanded the distance to the work zone.

When possible, use another vehicle with strobes and flashers further away from the work zone as a warning to others.

Possible Corrective Action

When working in the roadway, always be aware of the vehicles coming up on the workzone.

Follow the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCO) and all local traffic control ordinances.

Task Performed**Report #3**

Meter Work

Incident Summary

Our Cooperative uses automated metering and has the ability to disconnect/reconnect remotely from the office. With this ability, we offer pre-paid metering. All prepaid meters are constantly being monitored by the system and will automatically reconnect if the account shows a positive balance. This requires an extra step when disconnecting for members to conduct work on their side of the service, to prevent it from reconnecting. We had an incident where the member requested the power be disconnected so they could work on their equipment. The employee doing the disconnect missed a step where you must check a box to prevent the meter from automatically reconnecting, and since the account showed a positive balance it automatically reconnected. The member received a mild electrical shock.

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

Stress the procedures to ensure the meter does not become energized during this period of time. It's an extra step to check a box to make that happen and sometimes when this is not done for a while, it gets missed. Always stress, to the member, to still check voltage on their side of the service to ensure it's dead before doing any work.

Possible Corrective Action

Develop a checklist for the procedures involved in disconnecting or reconnecting remote operated meters.

Task Performed**Report #4**

Meter Work

Incident Summary

Lineman went to check a disconnected meter that was showing usage. Meter was on and breaker panel was locked. When the linemen unlocked the breaker panel, they found the breaker was on. Customer must have picked lock and turned breaker on. A disconnect meter was installed, the breaker was shut off and breaker panel was again locked.

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

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

Always be aware that a disconnected meter could be tampered with and re-energized.

Task Performed**Report #5**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Employees were replacing a 45' pole with a 55' pole for clearance. During the process of moving the #2 solid copper wires up to the arm of the new pole, one of the conductors started to pull on a primary jumper on an adjacent pole. The employee brought the conductors back down to take the strain off of the jumper and held that position so that a fellow employee could move a bucket truck over to the adjacent pole and lengthen the primary jumper. While the employee was lengthening the primary jumper, the other employees started to tamp the 55' pole. A skid steer was brought in with a bucket of dirt to aid in the tamping process. While the employees were tamping the pole, a conductor splice failed and the load side of the hot phase fell into the work zone, landing on the skid steer. The source side of the hot phase swung down and contacted the messenger conductor on a cable tv line. This intern operated a breaker that had been previously placed in one-shot.

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

Where possible, crews will open up the conductors and insert poles up and in between, so that not so much strain is put on conductors while transferring.

When needed, conductors can be slip tied on adjacent poles to allow for slack while moving.

Possible Corrective Action

No work should be performed underneath conductors that are being moved.

Task Performed**Report #6**

URD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Employee was driving east on state highway. Three semi trucks were driving bumper to bumper heading west on highway. As the second semi truck passed employees truck, the semi picked up a rock that struck the driver side back seat window on the service truck. The window exploded when it struck.

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

Employee was driving the speed limit and had his seat belt on. No policy/rule was broken.

Always be cautious while driving.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #7**

Driving

Incident Summary

Employee was driving on highway and the front end of the vehicle started to wobble. He stopped and found 9 of 11 lug nuts and studs sheared off the driver side duals.

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

Our policy states that employees are responsible for the equipment they are going to drive. In this case, the bucket truck had just come from the shop, where maintenance was performed on the bucket cradle. In order to do some re-welding, the rear duals on the drivers side had to come off. The mechanic claimed that the wheels and lug nuts where torqued to specs. The truck was parked back in the parking bay and he told the driver the the bucket truck was good to go.

Nothing yet has been done but we are going to check the lug nut torque values thats set by the manufacture.

Possible Corrective Action

Conduct a Pre-Trip inspection before driving any vehicle. The FMCSA states "Before driving a motor vehicle, the driver shall be satisfied that the motor vehicle is in safe operating condition."

Task Performed**Report #8**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Electrician contractor was framing a pole. When they rotated the boom, the boom tip brushed the road phase. No damage was done to our phase or equipment.

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

We will do more follow up. Spoke with electrician contractor about the dangers that are present when working near live lines.

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. If you need assistance or have questions regarding the safety resources, you cansend an email to: info@safeelectricity.org.

Task Performed**Report #9**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Crew was changing out a pole with the line energized. The staker misjudged the height of the existing 35' pole thinking it was a 40' and called for the new pole to be a 45'. The crew framed and set the new pole beside the old one and decided to lower the cable (rope) and winch it out of the hole and cut the butt off. When butt cleared the hole the pole grabbed on the digger and couldn't hold the now top heavy pole. The pole fell on to the field phase and tore the line down across a road. The breaker that fed the line was set on one-shot.

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

Pole Grabs (pole plumbers) are not to hold any load, only to use as a guide for the pole.

We will be meeting with all operations employees after Terex checks unit out. We will be training on the limitations of grabs (pole plumbers).

Possible Corrective Action

Understand and follow equipment operators manual and safe work practices.
