



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**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

While stowing the boom on digger derrick, the operator didn't rotate the boom far enough. When the boom came down, it was not lined up with the rest. The boom latch hit the rest and broke off the hydraulic hose fitting.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted** - Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

Tailgate - reminders to be more aware of surroundings.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Understand and follow equipment operators manual and safe work practices.

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

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

The crew was using the vacuum excavation machine (pot holing) to locate our existing primary three phase line. A storm sewer was going to be installed, above our lines, and they needed to know the depth. The crew was using the wand and alternately removing the slurry with the tube. They thought they felt the cables and were cleaning off the top when a large arc flash occurred, knocking the employee back to the ground. It also launched the spray wand straight up into the air, missing the employee. Investigation showed the high pressure water from the spray wand had penetrated the jacket, semicon and insulation, causing the cable to fault. This was new 220 mil jacketed 4/0 cable. Further testing revealed that the 3800 psi will invade the jacket of the cable in just a few seconds.

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

Operators manual calls for dielectric boots as well as rubber gloves

Testing revealed that 3700 psi would cause no damage to the cable jacket. Let everyone know of the results of the testing and employees will test on cable sample prior to use.

**Possible Corrective Action**

When purchasing equipment, the manufacturer should conduct an in-service qualification before employees use it.

Understand and follow the equipments operator manual.

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**Task Performed**  
OHD Restoration/Repair

**Report #3**

**Incident Summary**

On call crew was notified of an outage, in a subdivision, consisting of 63 members. Upon arriving at the location, the lead lineman and his helper found the primary line down in the road. After setting up the bucket truck and making repairs to the line, they went back down to re-energize the line. On their way back home they were notified that not all the power came back on. After returning and patrolling the rest of the line, they found the line was down in another area. Before returning a resident of the subdivision got his golf cart tangled in the downed power line and had to remove the power line from under the cart. After the line was re-energized the first time it set the woods and a yard on fire where the line was down. The residents of the subdivision were able to put out the fire using their own fire extinguishers. Repairs were made to the second place the line was down and the rest of the line was patrolled and re-energized.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

Patrol the entire section of line involved before re-energizing.

Safety meeting with all linemen to go over our procedure and policy covering down power lines and outages.

**Possible Corrective Action**

In an unplanned outage situation, patrol all of the affected line section before re-energizing.

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**Task Performed**  
OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Report #4**

**Incident Summary**

While climbing on to the operating platform of the digger truck, I slipped, but was able to keep myself from falling. The boom of the digger was positioned 90 degrees of the truck. There is not a step to climb onto the operating platform when the boom is not in the stowed position. It is about a 3 foot climb to get onto the platform from the belly of the truck.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Refer to operators manual

Check with the manufacture about designing steps that come down lower to the bed of truck.

When a hazard is found, discuss it with all affected employees to prevent an accident from happening.

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

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was unloading a 750 KVA pad mounted transformer off a trailer using the digger derrick. While lifting the transformer, the winch line snapped causing the transformer to fall off the trailer onto the ground between the trailer and digger truck.

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

All winch lines have been changed.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Follow operators manual and load chart

On a wire winch line, OSHA 1926.1413(a)(1) says, "A competent person must begin a visual inspection prior to each shift the equipment is used, which must be completed before or during that shift."

On synthetic winch lines check the entire rope for wear and re-spool it neatly after every use. Check the winch rope for any cut strands, fraying parts, abrasion, or heat damage from the winch.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Workzone contractor was flagging traffic and setting up a moving workzone for a crew pulling in fiber optic wire. A motorist ran through the work zone hitting a parked contractor pickup.

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

N/A

**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.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

We were pulling wire up to catch off with chain hoists and pull final sag. We were pulling to a dead-end pole about 1 mile east of the highway and an energized crossing. The new conductor was grounded at the highway east of the energized pole. The energized circuit was on Hotline Tag. We had the center phase and neutral caught off on chain hoists. When we pulled the two outside phases up, the 3/4" pull rope broke and we started losing tension on the outside phases from the east end of the job moving west (towards the highway). The foreman sent a man to the highway to check clearance and stop traffic if necessary. Law Enforcement had been previously contacted and were on the scene of the crossing. The foreman instructed everyone over the radio to stay clear of the wire until it was confirmed that there was proper clearance over the energized circuit. Confirmation was given that there was plenty of clearance and work resumed, pulling the wire up with the rope doubled over.

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

Pulling rope is being replaced.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Understand and follow the equipments operator manual.

On synthetic winch/pull lines, check the entire rope for wear and re-spool it neatly after every use. Check the winch rope for any cut strands, fraying parts, abrasion, or heat damage from the winch.

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

Office/Facility Incident

**Incident Summary**

I was walking up the sidewalk between the headquarters and the operation center and slipped several times on the ice, but did not fall. The sidewalk inclines between the two buildings. Someone had applied salt, but it was ineffective. I observed a number of employees walking on the sidewalk. All of them were slipping or walking cautiously. I returned about an hour and a half later and the sidewalk still had a layer of ice even though salt was present.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Close sidewalk until issue can be resolved.

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

Driving

**Incident Summary**

While driving the digger truck on the interstate, at 62 miles an hour, it made a loud pop with a hissing noise. I pulled over and began to coast to a stop on the shoulder of the highway when the rear axel locked up causing skid marks from both dual tires.

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

Mechanic is looking into this problem.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Always pull off the roadway and stop when the vehicle you are driving makes strange sounds or doesn't operate properly. Don't operate the vehicle until the cause is determined and you are satisfied that the vehicle is safe to operate.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was trying to minimize outage time to the member. They were in the process of changing out the conductor on a three phase line. One of the poles had a three phase bank with guys and services on it. Dirt had been cut back from one side of this pole leaving little support for the weight of the transformer bank and services. Crew dropped the old three phase lines off the pole with the transformer bank and 4/0 quad services. While pulling in the new primary, the pole fell on a work van that was about 8 feet from where the foreman was standing.

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

Any time the strain or angle of a pole is changed or does not have support, use a Digger Derrick to hold the pole or simply remove the transformer bank and services before retiring the old three phase lines.

Operations and Safety followed up to discuss this incident with the employee and forwarded to the Safety Committee for review.

**Possible Corrective Action**

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

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**Task Performed****Report #11**

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Trying to get around a member fence to label a transformer and I did not see a screw sticking out of the fence and scratched my forearm.

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

Be aware of your surroundings.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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