



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC  
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

January / 2021

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 Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Lighting contractor set light poles too close to our 3 phase power line

**Safety Equipment in Use** - Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted** - Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

The contractor should know the proper clearances from electric lines.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Have a Hazard Recognition Program in place. All employees should be trained on the procedures for recognizing and reporting hazards annually.

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

We found a broken neutral on open secondaries. Lineman put a blanket on the energized conductors to cover them up. Blanket pins were used to hold the blanket. The wind came up and blew the blanket off causing the neutral to come in contact with an energized conductor. This caused the transformers to trip and burned up the blanket and a grip.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Discuss all possible hazards and special precautions during job briefing.

When installing cover-up equipment, make sure it is secured before work begins, especially in windy conditions.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

While moving dead conductors we had a shotgunstick and a link stick hanging on neutral. The sticks fell off the line almost hitting an employee on the ground.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

All tools and equipment shall be placed in bags or securely attached to prevent them from falling.

All employees shall stay clear from the butt of pole while another employee is working aloft.

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

Material Handling/Securing

**Incident Summary**

While loading pole on boom digger, the eye of the winchline came undone and pole dropped a short distance onto pole rack.

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

Equipment shall be inspected prior to use.

Re-enforced the inspection of equipment before use.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Employees that will be rigging loads for lifting need to be properly trained in rigging techniques.

Before lifting a load double check all connections.

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

Material Handling/Securing

**Incident Summary**

While loading poles from pole pile, the lineman went to cant a pole to load it on the truck. When he canted the pole, another pole that he was standing on rolled causing the lineman to slip and land on another pole.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

When moving poles that are in a pile there is a high risk of other poles rolling. Never stand on poles that are in a pile.

When canting a pole in a pile, position yourself at the end of poles.

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

A large bucket truck got stuck in the sand while attempting to get to a pole to do outage work. Other employees attempted to pull the bucket truck out with a much lighter F-350. While pulling, they yanked the tow strap so hard that it broke the pintal hitch off of the F-350 and it flew into the bucket, damaging the bucket. Had the truck been facing the other way, the hitch could have went through a windshield and could have caused severe injury to the driver of the bucket truck.

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

If you need to pull out a vehicle, the vehicle doing the pulling needs to be of the same weight or greater than the stuck vehicle. Also, do not pull in a direction that would allow the strap to fly into a windshield and use a device on the strap or rope to absorb some of the energy if the rope or strap flies back or snaps. Also, keep people clear of the area while pulling.

We are going to have the General Manager talk about this incident to everyone in a group, and incorporate more training in the classroom and the field.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Make sure all equipment used for pulling is rated for the task it will be used for.

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