



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

A reciprocal exchange managed by Federated Rural Electric Management Corp.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

February / 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.

Task Performed**Report #1**

URD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Crew was sent to trench in a new underground service to repair one that had faulted. Windmills being constructed in the area had collector feeders installed, but the crew did not know that a 34.5 kV underground feeder was in this area. 8-1-1 locates were called for and valid, but the windmill company was not included (Afterwards they told us that it is in progress). There were no warning markers present to indicate that an underground line was buried here. The crew trenched over top of the 34.5 line without knowing it and found out about it only when Windmill Company contractors stopped by the job site to tell them. They had probably come within 6"-2' of hitting those lines which could have caused catastrophic damage and injury and possibly death. The line had been energized by the Windmill Company one day prior and afterwards we were told that they were experiencing delays in getting into the 8-1-1 system.

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

In this case, we do not believe the failure occurred on the Cooperative's side of things. All work rules, procedures, and practices were followed.

Working with outside companies to obtain maps (this was requested and they were unable to fulfill this request).

Work to ensure other utilities are enrolled in 8-1-1 especially when they present a hazard.

Possible Corrective Action

If there is evidence that a utility is in the area but has not been marked work should not begin until utility is notified and locates completed.

Task Performed**Report #2**

Vehicle/Transformer Shop

Incident Summary

Came to work for an outage on a Friday morning. Ice was on the ground and it was raining. I pulled into parking space and could not stop due to ice in parking spot and I slid into the shop.

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

Discussed incident and recommendations to prevent this from reoccurring were: de-ice parking lot, drive slow and brake early.

Possible Corrective Action

Install curbing in front of building where possible to prevent future incidents.

Task Performed**Report #3**

ROW Clearing/Maintenance

Incident Summary

A lineman was cutting a tree. The other employees pushed the tree and it bounced off of a lower limb and hit the back of the truck putting a dent in the tailgate.

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

Cut lower limbs before you cut higher limbs

Discuss all possible hazards in tailgate discussion

Possible Corrective Action

Ensure that people and vehicles or equipment not being used, maintain a distance away from the tree-felling operations that is at least two times the height of the tree.

Task Performed**Report #4**

Public Liability

Incident Summary

Someone called and reported seeing a steel pole hit by a vehicle. The caller sent a picture to employee of the pole. No other report came in.

Safety Equipment in Use - No**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. If you need assistance or have questions regarding the safety resources, you can send an email to: info@safeelectricity.org.
