



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC  
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

April-May / 2022

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**

Dispatch called and said there was a grass fire east of the Dairy. The fire dept was on scene putting out fire. They said it was around on of our poles. Arrived on scene and EMS was gone and fire was out. A squirrel had gotten on riser pole blowing cutout which must have thrown sparks causing a grassfire. There was tin on pole already but the cedar trees are close to the riser and squirrel must have jumped onto riser.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted** - Yes

#### **Corrective Action Taken**

Need to trim trees back from poles.

#### **Possible Corrective Action**

Check ROW maintenance cycle to make sure proper clearance of trees from lines and install animal guards where possible.

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Linemen called in to a ditch fire from a tree by line of a customer. The fire dept had the fire out when linemen arrived at the scene. Cleared the tree from the line and checked over the wire and it was okay. Reenergized line.

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

Fire dept was called and did stay clear of lines.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Check ROW maintenance cycle to make sure proper clearance of trees from lines.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

The bucket truck operator was trying to squeeze in between guy wire and pole. Eyes were focused on the back step on the bucket so it wouldn't be ripped off by the guy wire. The secondary wire wedged in between roller and the attachment point on the jib causing a hot leg of the secondary to burn into and blow the fuse.

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

Have more situational awareness. Have someone on the ground watch if operator can't see everything they need to.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Review truck setup procedures and always use a spotter when possible.

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

Public Liability

**Incident Summary**

Coop was called in response to severe damage at a local airport after a tractor trailer tried to turn around in their parking lot. The driver pulled into the airport with the intent of turning around, but snagged a low hanging communications wire that was attached to our poles in the process. The driver continued to drive forward which resulted in an outage, 3 broken poles, 2 downed spans of primary, 3 downed spans of service wire. During this incident, the driver stopped and untangled the wire from the truck before fleeing the scene. An airport security officer recounted the events take place and provided surveillance footage. Fortunately, the fuse on the tap had blown before he tried to untangle the wire from the trailer. We are thankful to be reporting this incident as a near miss on our distribution system rather than a fatality.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Continue public safety awareness demonstrations and safety messages on the hazards of downed power lines.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

A fiber contractor working on our system was pulling in a new section of fiber alongside a rural road. The crew had set up on a C-1 to lower the existing fiber and establish clearance for the new fiber. The lineman was drilling a hole (4) feet below our system neutral to lower the existing fiber when the insulator on the pole top pin broke. Center phase fell onto the cross arm on the field side of the pole. Immediately, the designated observer instructed the lineman to boom into the clear and cradle the bucket. The lineman was in the clear when the first of three arc flashes occurred. The situation was reported to dispatch and it was found that the line had operated a total of (5) times out of the substation. After a new pole top pin and insulator were installed, we were able to examine the old porcelain insulator and identified multiple stress cracks as the root cause.

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

Personal Protective Equipment- gloves and sleeves

2 year inspection of the distribution system- last inspection of that pole was completed within a calendar year.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Review line inspection procedures to ensure all hardware is observed during the line inspection process and document any deficiencies.

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

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was on way to job site when they noticed a padmount transformer facing the wrong direction. They stopped and investigated the situation and it appeared that it had been hit by construction equipment then pushed back into place. The crew opened transformer door to inspect elbows and secondary cables for damages. Everything was ok so crew turned transformer 90 degrees to face the correct direction on the pad.

Close call was construction worker exposure to possible dangerous situation by moving transformer back on pad and crews exposure when opening door to transformer.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Continue public safety messages on the hazards of electricity and have crews de-energize any URD cabinet or equipment that has been damaged or displaced prior to opening for inspection.

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Truck hit and broke A.4. Call crew cut in float half mile up road and grounded line at the float and back feed line. They cut wire off of A.4 and rolled back to adjacent poles. One wire was rolled back to A.1 was a full span with ground over 1000 ft away. Other wire was slack span that was rolled back to energized A.4. Job was left for next day so pole could be set during normal working hours. Next day we set pole with this set up but did put cover up on energized line to roll out slack span.

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

U4.5 Personal Protective Grounding of Overhead Lines

Ground worker requirements

U. If primary phase conductors have shifted from their default locations and are lying on or hanging near the ground and ground workers are required to touch the line, the following requirements shall be met:

1. Personal protective grounds are installed within view of the worksite extending up to 1000 feet or as close as practical.

An unwritten rule is we are supposed to do it how they teach at COLT.

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Happened in last 5 months. Preflighted bucket truck and when testing auxiliary power, pump would run but boom functions wouldn't work. With the mechanic's help we figured out you had to let pump run for a min before functions would work. The pump sounded like it was taking prime. After it took prime it worked right away. Since there was a different truck, we could take we left this truck in to be looked at. I asked around to people who have been running the truck before and they said that is the way that truck is but it does work. Next day truck got sent out said nothing wrong with it. Guy that drove it said it did the same thing he guessed they will have to fix it when the pump burns up. It did eventually get fixed months later they found dirt in the check valve. If a rescue was being preformed it would have taken along time to get someone down.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Check fleet maintenance program to ensure proper and safe fuctioning of all equipment and hydraulic controls.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Bore job had to pull in 4/0 wire in empty duct and run up pole. Pole also had the overhead service that needed retired with lift pole in middle of yard going to house. The pole we were working on was an A.1 transformer with a primary slack span at a 45 degree angle that went to an A.4 heading off down a T road. The line we were working on also continued on down the road we were working on. Line truck was set up just past slack span in the 45 degree part of slack span so bucket could set at pole and work the pole. Pulled wire reel out of line truck bed and put lift pole we cut off in pole hauler cradle on truck. When putting pole in cradle the truck boom was 5 foot from line. No cover up, truck ground, one shot, dielectrics, or rubber gloves.

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

Truck Grounding: Digger Derricks

X.

When a digger derrick is operated in the vicinity of lines or equipment energized at more than 600 volts, precautions shall be taken to protect the public and ground workers

**Possible Corrective Action**

Refer to work rules and procedures for the safe handling of poles and equipment near energized lines and equipment and the PPE required to be worn in when in those situations.

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Line crew was sent to put B phase conductor back in the air. Two phases were up but only the C phase was energized. The tailgate was conducted. Three solid blade cutouts needed to be pulled and the blades removed so that we had a visual open. 2 employees went to the described pole to open. Once the open was established, they called the lineman and said the "cuts were open". The lineman immediately started to install grounds on the conductors. The ground was installed and created a flash and blew up in the lineman's and the other crew mans face. The 2 employees went to the wrong pole and opened was a capacitor bank.

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

Open the line

Test the line

Ground the line

Ensure that we get pole numbers to the lineman going to do the opens so there are no questions and testing before we do any work.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Always follow established clearance procedures and confirm understanding of Job Briefing.

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

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Our URD crew was digging a trench for the last section of conduit to be laid when they caught the existing URD primary with the excavator bucket on the south side of the vault. The existing URD primary was still energized and had been marked by the locator on the west side of the vault. The operator caught the URD primary with the bucket while pulling the last scoop of dirt from the trench. A crew member was watching the wire inside the vault and alerted the operator to stop as soon as he saw some slack pulled out of the vault. An outage was obtained with the business owner and the source was de-energized and grounded before work was continued. Minor damage occurred to the jacket of the URD primary. The distance between the locator's mark and actual location of the primary was about 4 feet and it was buried to a depth just shy of 3 feet. The conduit of the existing primary stopped 3 feet short of the vault rather than being terminated inside of the vault.

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

When working near URD lines and equipment, employees shall confirm marked locates with our own locating devices to verify the accuracy of locates marked by contracted companies.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #12**

URD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Our stand-by crew reported to a nearby neighborhood in response to an outage that involved URD primary. They opened a URD transformer in hopes of determining the cause of the outage. They found that the elbow had blown off the bushing and was laying against the inside of the transformer.

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

Our policy states that employees shall wear their rubber gloves when opening energized URD equipment.

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #13**

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

The crew was installing a new UG service to a house on a 35mph secondary road with a work zone set up along the shoulder of the road. Around 3:00 pm the crew heard a loud noise and saw a member owned vehicle strike and drag our utility work ahead sign through the work zone. The vehicle was five feet onto the shoulder of the road and did not stop to communicate with the crew. We called the local police who declared it a hit and run and filled out an accident report. No other equipment or employee was injured.

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

Any motor vehicle accident involving our equipment requires a police accident report.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #14**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was setting a pole in-line approximately mid way between adjacent poles. One pole was inspected from the ground to make sure all hardware and ties appear to be in good condition before strain change. The OCR was set on one shot approximately one mile away. While the bucket operator was positioning the phases for the pole insert to take place, the center phase tie came off the insulator allowing the center and road side phases to contact each other. One shot did its job and locked the circuit open instantly. No one was injured and the crew finished setting the new pole and then moved down line to adjacent pole to replace insulator and tie.

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

When working on overhead lines always inspect adjacent poles as well because they are part of the current job sight as well.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A