



**FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC**  
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

July / 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 Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was changing out a storm damaged C-1 Neutral High structure. To make room for the new pole to be installed, both road and center phase was laid out on a lay out arm and the field phase was moved out using a truck jib. New pole was set. To make room to install the field phase on the new x-arm the field side portion of the old x-arm and old brace needed to be removed. When the employee cut the wooden portion of the field side brace the metal portion of the road side brace buckled allowing the old x-arm and laid out phases to tilt downward at approx. a 45 degree angle. The employee doing the cutting was able to grab the field side of the old x-arm and hold it in place until the employee holding out the field phase could maneuver into position to assist. A large 6030 brace was then installed to support the laid out road and center phase. The crew then stopped work and held a verbal tailgate to discuss how to proceed.

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

Traffic control in place, job briefing had been conducted, designated observer was in place, emergency placard was posted, hot work reported to office, OCR was in one-shot and tagged, trucks were grounded, and proper PE and PPE was in use.

The prevention procedure collected from and adopted by employees are:

1. Before starting hot work perform a visual inspection and tighten hardware as needed.
2. When possible, use multiple bucket trucks with jibs and/or three phase tree instead of layout arms.
3. If layout arm is used with this brace style install a 6030 brace too aid in supporting the added strain of the laid out phases.
4. Tag the phases out. If it is decided to tag out a phase the following shall be followed:
  - a. Positive control shall be maintained at all times.
  - b. Tag out device shall be made up of a link stick and a serviceable, properly rated rope.
  - c. The tag out device shall be secured to a stable object.
  - d. Employee(s) controlling the tag out device shal

**Possible Corrective Action**

Complete inspection of line, poles & hardware prior to changing angles or loads on structures.

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

Line/Substation Switching

**Incident Summary**

Crew was to take outage on 34.5 KV line to change broken cross arm. Foreman opened the GOAB switch to deenergize the line. All three blades opened, the top arc whip did not open and one phase was still energized. Crew was checking for voltage and let the foreman know the line was not deenergized. Foreman went back to the switch and noticed the arc whip had not cleared. Used extendo stick to clear the arc whip. Crew checked for voltage again and line was deenergized.

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

Open switch and check all switch blades are open. Check for voltage before grounding line.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Lineman went out to UG switch to inspect cause of a circuit blink. After identifying the cause and completing the inspection the Lineman placed his iPad on top of the switch. At this time he saw a copperhead laying on top of the switch near the iPad.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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

Driving

**Incident Summary**

While attempting to park, employee backed into a parking spot. In the landscaped area behind the parking spot there was a small metal pole. The employee did not see the pole and hit it while backing.

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

Continue to review your path when backing into spots. Looking for obstacles before you back into a parking spot will help reduce accidents.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Linemen were replacing open wire secondary with triplex. Set up on take off pole to retire old three wire open secondary then hung and energized new triplex. Moved over to weatherhead and hung triplex and started making connections. While cutting one of the hot phases of the triplex the lineman got bolt cutters into neutral causing spark. Cutters were energized while cutting and contacted ground Crew decided to energize triplex before hanging on weather head. This saved one set up of the truck but required additional hot work that could have been done de-energized

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

Take the extra step to minimize hot work to only what is necessary.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Confirm existing conditions and all energy sources prior to beginning work.

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

West Circuit of 5 sub B phase was out. Patrolled line and found neutral tore down over highway project. A backhoe was not far from the wires. Neutral was flipped up into the phase.

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

Sub breaker opened up.

Talked to an operator and made them aware of overhead lines.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Changing out a meter pole. Used an extendo to trip the transformer off. As lineman was tripping the transformer the stick got between the handle and the tail of the secondaries. The transformer immediately exploded. The lid blew off the transformer, still attached to the phase. The jumper came down and hit the neutral and ended up opening the B phase in the sub.

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

Used the extendo and not in the bucket with 8' stick. Wearing all PPE.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Linemen were digging up the conduit that was bored in for customer by the take off pole. Linemen vacuumed out all of the telephone that was marked and we were digging with the backhoe. Hit a sewer line that was buried in the middle of the ditch. It was a private line that was not marked. Sewer line was fixed by plumbers and linemen resumed digging and hit a 2" conduit of telephone line that also was not marked. Called telephone company and line was abandoned.

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

Properly mark lines when digging.

Contact all customers in area to see if they have anything in the area of excavation site.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

On 7-5-22. Line crew was sent out to change a broke single phase dead end pole from storm the previous weekend. Crew went over job and was going to kill the tap when framing of the pole was completed.

Line truck and bucket was set up and pole was set off the left side of the truck operator then put the boom directly over the middle of the truck to be able to step off truck safely. After completing the framing of the pole the foreman asked his lineman to go set his truck up to take off spring jumper for the tap. While discussing with other two crew members on next step the foreman looked up and saw that the boom had moved over and the winch line for the boom was touching primary, neutral, and telecommunications. Job was immediately stopped and crew went to deenergize line quickly. The truck was taken out of service and sent back for repairs.

The line truck boom slowly drifted over into the line without crew knowing. The truck or winch line showed no signs of it coming hot.

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

Employees should not leave lifted booms unattended when there is the possibility of coming in contact with other structures. Employee must remain in controll of aerial lifting equipment while uncradled.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Review OSHA 1910.269(p)(1)(iv)

The operator of an electric line truck may not leave his or her position at the controls while a load is suspended, unless the employer can demonstrate that no employee (including the operator) is endangered.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

A two man crew was doing line maintenance to re-sag a span of conductor over a gated entrance. A verbal tailboard was conducted but not a written one filled out nor was the source side OCR put on ONE SHOT. The lineman in the bucket was using all PPE to do this job energized, installing a web hoist and grips to take slack out of the line, the lineman forgot to install a jumper to maintain connection prior to cutting the conductor. Once the conductor was cut service was lost to members down line, the lineman then lowered the bucket to get a jumper & hotstick. Installation of the jumper was successful and the conductor was re-sagged & sleeved back together.

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

Crews shall conduct their tailboard following protocol & all HOT work will be done behind a ONE SHOT , HOT LINE TAG or De-energized.

**Possible Corrective Action**

A qualified designated observer should be utilized when energized work is underway.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was preparing to lift OH transformer. One crew member noticed that the derrick winch line was severely frayed above the eye of the hook.

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

Truck was shut down until fleet personnel could replace the winch line.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Driving

**Incident Summary**

Employee was doing as pre-trip walk around when he noticed that the binding chain on the excavator trailer was damaged. One of the links near the binder was severely bent.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Office/Facility Incident

**Incident Summary**

An employee reported that there was a trip hazard outside of the warehouse entrance. An irrigation line was lying across the side walk near the warehouse entrance door. There were a few pieces of tape over the line, but employees were still catching their feet on the line.

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

Two sections of cord covers were placed over the line to prevent a slip/trip/fall injury.

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Crew rcvd a call that the contractor on the highway job hit a pole and the lines were down across the highway. Linemen were nearby, so they headed to the incident. One phase was still attached to the take off pole and was really low across the highway. Employee attempted to slow traffic down by shutting highway off. Line was cleared and got traffic moving again. Cops were contacted to assist w/ traffic safety. They ran over the first pole on west side of the highway with a tractor. Pole needed replaced and sleeved in new wire across the highway. The RER did operate and it killed the two phases that were ripped down.

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

Continued public education.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #15**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was changing out a broken VC-2 that was broke about 8' above the ground caused by a large tree that fell on the service wire going to the house. It was a very tight right of way with room for only two trucks to work. A digger and bucket. The digger had just set the new pole while the phases being transferred. The digger had to be used to secure the new pole because the guy could not be installed because of where the digger was set up. A phase had been transferred to the new pole and while in the process of transferring B phase is when the old pole began to fall slowly and the butt of the pole broke off. Under normal conditions we would have set the new pole and then use the digger to stabilize the broke pole but this was not possible in this situation.

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

Never assume a broken pole will remain where it is no matter how many attachments seem to be backing up all the angles.

Always use a digger truck to secure broken poles before beginning work.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

**Task Performed****Report #16**

Meter Work

**Incident Summary**

Lineman was sent to energize 480v meter for pump. When first cutout was closed in there was a fault in the meter socket resulting in meter and socket burning up.

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

Lineman could have removed meter and inspected socket before energizing but this may not have resulted in identifying issue

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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