



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

A reciprocal exchange managed by Federated Rural Electric Management Corp.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

February / 2023

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**

Material Handling/Securing

Incident Summary

TWO EMPLOYEES WERE LIFTING A 5/16" SHEET OF STEEL THAT MEASURED 4'X8' OUT OF THE BED OF A DUMP TRUCK. THE SHEET METAL CLAMP WAS SECURED TO THE TOP EDGE OF THE SHEET OF METAL. AS THE SHEET OF METAL WAS LIFTED FROM A HORIZONTAL ORIENTATION TO A VERTICAL ORIENTATION, THE SHEET OF METAL SHIFTED WHEN IT PASSED THE CENTER OF BALANCE AND THE CLAMP SLID OFF THE EDGE OF THE METAL. THIS RESULTED IN THE SHEET OF METAL FALLING BACK TO THE HORIZONTAL ORIENTATION IN ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION IN THE BED OF THE DUMP TRUCK. NO EMPLOYEES WERE INJURED AND NO EQUIPMENT OR MATERIALS WERE DAMAGED. THE CLAMP WAS INSPECTED FOR CORRECT FUNCTION AND POSITIVELY REINSTALLED AND THE SHEET OF METAL WAS SAFELY LIFTED OUT OF THE BED OF THE DUMP TRUCK AND LOWERED INTO POSITION FOR STORAGE.

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

THE POLICY AT OUR COOPERATIVE IS TO UTILIZE A DESIGNED AND APPROVED LIFTING DEIVCE TO HANDLE SHEETS OF METAL AS WELL AS TO NEVER STAND NEAR OR UNDER SUSPENDED LOAD. NEITHER INVOLVED EMPLOYEE WAS UNDER OR NEAR THE LOAD AS IT WAS BEING LIFTED TO A VERTICAL ORIENTATION.

THE CLAMP BEING USED WAS INSPECTED FOR CORRECT FUNCTION AND POSITIVELY REISTALLED TO THE SHEET OF METAL. AS IT WAS LIFTED TO THE VERTICAL ORIENTATION, IT WAS SETTLED TO PREVENT IT FROM TIPPING BACK AND FORTH, ALLOWING THE CLAMP TO MOVE.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #2**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Derrick got stuck in the snow, we were pulling it out with the backhoe and a tow rope when the rope slipped off of the backhoe teeth and flew back to the derrick and hit the windshield.

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

We should have run the rope under the bucket to keep the pull point lower and keep down pressure on the rope.

Possible Corrective Action

Consider using a locking device to connect the tow rope at each end.

Task Performed**Report #3**

Driving

Incident Summary

Was traveling north at 15 mph, I was looking for a job site to meet a member about connecting power to their property. While driving to navigate the road, looking at mapping, to find the site entry I found myself on the yellow line if not a little over with oncoming truck. I turned back into my lane and the driver passed by.

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

Stay off the phone while driving. Will try and find safe spot to turn off and look at mapping before proceeding forward on the road way.

Possible Corrective Action

Eliminate all other distraction while driving.

Task Performed**Report #4**

Material Handling/Securing

Incident Summary

We were hooking up a 200 amp meter base, after we had pulled up the wire employee began connecting the wires near the weather head. I then told employee that I was going to peel the wire so I would be ready to hook it up after he was finished, I started hooking up the wire on my side when the unsecured neutral wire came in contact with the wire that I had just peeled. This caused an arc.

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

Always connect the neutral wire first before you connect any other wire.

After the incident, we came together as a crew and discussed what happened and how it could have been prevented and what we will do next time. The suggestion was made that we could connect the neutral before we ever expose any energized wire.

Possible Corrective Action

Confirm all other employees are clear before beginning energized work. Confirm all potential energy sources are covered when conducting energized work.

Task Performed**Report #5**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Call for outage came in.

Crew was dispatched to the line and found 2 spans of primary wire down. The feed side of the primary was just off the ground and in the clear and never operated due to not having any fault current. A member of the public happened to come out of her home and saw the wire was down in the road. She grabbed onto the load end of the conductor, which was wrapped around the neutral in multiple locations but luckily sustained no injuries, beside a very stern talking to from her husband. This could have taken on a very different type of context and she is EXTREMELY lucky to be alive.

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

We have no rule pertaining to customer safety.

We are going to put a memo in our monthly newsletter and on our website.

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, email: info@safeelectricity.org.

Task Performed**Report #6**

Office/Facility Incident

Incident Summary

Walking into the office and slipped & fell on ice. The snow melted and refroze over night. On my cell phone and not paying attention.

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

Pay attention when walking

Possible Corrective Action

Stay aware of personal safety at all times.

Task Performed**Report #7**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

"Lineman called for an outage and located a tree in the overhead line. The power line was deenergized and the tree was about 3ft off the ground. Lineman begins trimming then topped the tree when it sprung up in the air then landed where the lineman had run from." "Tree in overhead line will produce slingshot effect." "Unable to tie the line down to control slingshot effect. The difficult terrain did not allow vehicle access to the line."

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

"When cutting trees on power line, always consider safe exit routes."

Possible Corrective Action

Consider all options to eliminate unknown movement of ROW and or line equipment.

Task Performed**Report #8**

Vehicle/Transformer Shop

Incident Summary

Towing pickup behind a bucket truck being delivered for service when the driver-side front wheel of the pickup being towed came off and rolled into the median.

A wheel sensor had been recently changed on the pickup and retorqued after a short test drive.

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

Re-torquing of lug nuts after a test drive after removing the wheel.

Possible Corrective Action

Inspect vehicles and equipment to ensure road worthy prior to travel.
