



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC  
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

August/ 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.

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## Task Performed

## Report #1

OHD Construction/Maintenance

### Incident Summary

On June 19, 2023, the line crew, (Crew Foreman, Journeyman Lineman, Lineman, Apprentice Lineman) were replacing a storm damaged pole. Upon arrival, a job briefing was held. The foreman directed the placement of the bucket truck and line truck in the right-of-way across from one another. Once both trucks were positioned and operational, the Lineman and Apprentice began grounding the pole. When the Journeyman walked around the side of the truck, he noticed smoke and fire coming from underneath the bucket truck and alerted other crew members. Due to quick action and training, the fire was extinguished, saving major equipment damage. However, there was damage to some electrical wiring and hydraulic hoses. The jobsite right-of-way was last maintained in 2020 and had recently been sprayed. The vegetation was somewhat dry, even though the area had experienced routine rainfall. The truck exhaust exited under the body of the truck and was directed toward the ground, igniting the fire.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted** - Yes

### Corrective Action Taken

Our policy states that "If it becomes necessary to operate the aerial lift in high grasses or weeds, this growth shall be cleared from under the truck."

### Possible Corrective Action

N/A

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

Vehicle/Transformer Shop

**Incident Summary**

Employee was preparing to hook digger truck to trailer and while inspecting hitch the employee believed that the hitch looked worn past compliance. Hitch was determined to be out of compliance and is being replaced.

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

Inspect Equipment Before Use

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Office/Facility Incident

**Incident Summary**

Lightning hit electric service nearby causing the building to operate on half power. The fire/security alarm system was sounding off due to power outage and low power. I went to the office control room to check on the main security panel to stop alarm. While in the control room, I faintly smelled burning. I looked around and I could hear the fan motor that is wired 3 phase humming because it had froze up after attempting to operate on one leg of power. It was getting very hot and started smoking, I quickly located the closest fire extinguisher and asked another employee to assist in finding the breaker. After locating and shutting the breaker off, the motor stopped humming and the room was filled with smoke. We used fans to clear smoke out of building and watched the area for additional 30 minutes to ensure no other hot areas.

**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**

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

I received a no power call on an irrigation service, upon arrival i noticed two blown fuses on the pole. I observed a squirrel at the bottom of the pole, leading me to think that was the cause of the blown fuses. I shut the customer disconnect off, refused the two fuses that were blown and energized the service. I checked voltage before turning on customer disconnect, voltage was good. I then went to turn the disconnect back on and fire and sparks came out between the top of the disconnect and bottom of our meter socket.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Was checking an insulator out on a A-1 with amductor wire. The tie fell down and contacted the ground coming up the pole. The tie caused an arc.

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

I should have used a split blanket on the pin. More cover up and I should have cut the ground wire above the nueutral.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

**Incident Summary**

The crew was tasked with straightening a regulator platform bank. The bank was leaning south, approximately 15 degrees from the recent storms. Holes were dug on the north side of each pole to provide adequate space and alleviate resistance with the soil during the straightening process. Two digger trucks were positioned in such a way that the turrets were directly north of each pole with the boom of each digger truck aligned with the 2 poles of the regulator bank, a chain was attached directly under the platform on both poles to the winch line of the digger truck positioned directly north. Observers were positioned at the base of each pole with direction to stop the operation for any reason. Both truck operators were positioned in the pole line to the west along with another observer to plum poles into final position. When everyone was in position and ready, the truck operators began to winch up in unison. As the bank was being pulled to the north, the platform went over the ce

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

As the bank was being pulled to the north, the platform went over the center of gravity and began freefalling north toward the digger trucks. It came to rest on the bucket of the east digger causing no visible damage. The structure was secured to another piece of equipment at the sight so the diggers could come off and reposition the poles with the use of pole claws.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Discussion on how using the claws from the beginning would have eliminated the issue or having it attached to something to prevent the regulator platform bank from falling over center.

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**Task Performed**

**Report #7**

Driving

**Incident Summary**

While we were driving back to the jobsite from lunch, a vehicle pulled up beside me and the driver was acting erratic. He continued to drive beside me for about a mile all while staring at me and making hand gestures. I decided to turn onto a side street to get away from him and as turned a bullet entered the drivers side window and went into the dash. I continued to a safe location before stopping to call law enforcement. The bullet entered the truck window less than 18 inches from my body.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Use defensive driving techniques to avoid distracted and aggressive drivers. If road rage is encountered attempt to deescalate the situation by removing yourself and vehicle from the area.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Contract crew was changing out a C3 that had a forward span in right-of-way. B phase was transferred to new pole with no issues. The lineman in the air looking down the forward span noticed that B phase and the phase being transferred were close but thought it would stay in the clear. When the crew attempted to transfer the phase it made contact mid span. The down line OCR's which were set to one-shot that morning tripped out the two phases. No injuries occurred.

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

B phase should have been re-sagged prior to transferring the second phase.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Designate a qualified observer when energized work is conducted.

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

Office/Facility Incident

**Incident Summary**

Team member was pulling a skid of OCR's off of the middle rack. As he was pulling the skid out, he noticed one of the OCR's wobbling and it fell off of the skid.

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

Never exceed the rated load and ensure it is stable and balanced.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

ROW Clearing/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

While performing tree trimming operations, made a cut in branch with tree sticks and started to pull on branch when it contacted triplex causing it to spin and brush primary wire.

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

Slow down and follow the procedures discussed in job briefing

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Went to gather materials from bucket truck, and rolled ankle when stepping in a hole

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

Do a full job site analysis before beginning work to prevent hazards

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Tested class 2 rubber gloves before beginning work and found a small hole through the first 2 layers

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

Always test rubber gloves before beginning work

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Performing a switchover to a single 50KVA transformer. Disconnected legs from the secondary bushing flag, then bent it down causing it to brush the tank ground and trip the CSP on the transformer.

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

Tape the ends when pulling them from secondary

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Arrived at job site with a downed center phase. Firefighters and members were walking all over the downed phase and picking up wires. Then informed everyone to clear the area.

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

We are offering training to the local fire departments to teach them what to do when there are down lines, and the precautions they need to take.

**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](http://www.safeelectricity.org). If you need assistance or have questions regarding the safety resources, email: [info@safeelectricity.org](mailto:info@safeelectricity.org).

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

Driving

**Incident Summary**

Driving out of the yard and found a wheel lug on the ground in front of the entrance. Then took it to the mechanics to match it with a vehicle to red tag until they change out all lugs.

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

Mechanics are changing out all lugs on the Dodge 5500"s due to the recall.

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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