



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

A reciprocal exchange managed by Federated Rural Electric Management Corp.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

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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

Line/Substation Switching

Incident Summary

Co-op line personnel were performing rotating outages during an unexpected event. Weather conditions were: 39 degrees F, fog, and lite mist. A lineman prepared to drop a single-phase tap from the ground using a long stick. Pole construction was three-phase, 25kV horizontal with a 200-amp cutout mounted on the crossarm in the field side phase position, feeding from the center phase. As the cutout was opened a cross-phase occurred ultimately burning down the field side conductor. The lineman ran quickly to a perceived safe location. In the process, he reported feeling the line conductor hit his hard hat, then he reported feeling a shocking sensation in his legs as he ran. No direct contact was made. The shocking feeling was determined to be step potential. An Independent review was performed. The cause of the cross-phase was a combination of improper clearance, load and weather. The lineman was transported to a medical facility, treated, and released.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes

Job Briefing Conducted - Yes

Corrective Action Taken

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

When energized work is performed inspect all equipment, structures, and conductor prior to beginning task. If inspection cannot be completed, consider de-energizing until inspection or task is completed.

Task Performed**Report #2**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Lineman was pulling tension on a downed wire by hand, on the ground, to get it ready to be attached to a grip and handline. The wire was drooped across a telecommunication line and when the wire flipped over the line, some of the resistance was released and the wire came down quicker than anticipated and pierced into the lineman's boot and hitting his foot. No injury was sustained.

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

Always be mindful of hazards associated with pulling downed wire.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #3**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Employee on call received a call with report of two outages on the same line. The employee (Employee 1) knew the line and knew that it fed two hunting cabins. The dead end of the line, at the cabins, is a long drive and on the other side of a river from the fuse. The employee called a fellow employee (Employee 2) to go check the fuse and stay at that location until he could reach the dead-end of the line. When Employee 2 reached the fuse he saw the fuse barrel hanging down and relayed this information to Employee 1. When Employee 1 reached the cabins both cabins had lights on and he could hear a generator running. Employee 1 asked Employee 2 to use a voltage tester and check the line, the line was energized. The generator had backfed and heated the line up.

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

Discussing with employees.

Checking with member to verify how generator is hooked up.

Putting information out to members on dangers of generators.

Possible Corrective Action

Follow all Clearance procedures before work begins to ensure safe working conditions.

1. Confirm source has visual open and device is inoperable
2. Apply tag
3. Test for absence of voltage
4. Apply Protective Grounds

Task Performed**Report #4**

Line/Substation Switching

Incident Summary

Went to close in a GOAB, it was sticking and only closed part way. Adjusted positioning to finish closing when it arched over. Assume that the GOAB arched over the air gap to pick up load.

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

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

Confirm with a visual inspection of all equipment and line prior to operating or switching.

Task Performed**Report #5**

URD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

When replacing a padmount transformer, we were lifting the old padmount and cement pad that was bolted to the bottom. During the lift, the cement broke and fell almost hitting a fence.

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

Separate pad and transformer and make two lifts.

Possible Corrective Action

Inspect and confirm equipment and tools for rigging and lifting are in excellent operating condition and are designed for the task.

Task Performed**Report #6**

Driving

Incident Summary

Hooking up backhoe trailer to digger truck, I got in a hurry and didn't latch the pintle hitch. Mistake was caught by operator during walk around before driving off.

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

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

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

Task Performed**Report #7**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Crew was framing a pole laying on a pole gin. When the pole was canted to run the pole ground the gin tipped over and the pole nearly hit second employee who was helping install pole ground. The pole gin being used was a home made X-brace style with a third leg used like a kick-stand. The third leg created a pivot point and in a way threw the pole to the side when it failed.

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

We have removed all home made pole gins and purchased manufactured and tested gins. Field testing also showed that canting a pole near the center where the gin is positioned is the most stable option.

Possible Corrective Action

Inspect and confirm equipment and tools for rigging and lifting are in excellent operating condition and are designed for the task.

Task Performed**Report #8**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Crew was digging hole with auger when lineman noticed auger pin looked bent. Removed auger from hole to inspect bolt, when it was set on spoils pile the end of the bolt fell off. Occurring possibly by catching a rock while digging or got wedged in eye of auger hole and bent/broke. There is no washer on the nut side of the bolt

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

Addition of washer on nut side of bolt.

Possible Corrective Action

Inspect equipment prior to use to ensure manufactures specifications are met and equipment is setup properly to complete task.

Task Performed**Report #9**

ROW Clearing/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Trimmed a tree branch from the ground using tree sticks, branch caught triplex on way down and spun into phase. Forgot about triplex when pulling down on branch, it was discussed in tailgate. Got in a hurry and did not follow what was discussed in tailgate.

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

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

Confirm drop zones and adequate clearances can be met prior to cutting trees and branches in proximity to structures and lines.

Task Performed**Report #10**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Walked to vehicle to grab materials and stepped in a hole which caused a rolled ankle. I Did not check the surroundings

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

Need to check all surroundings of the site before beginning work.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #11**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Found a hole in class 2 rubber gloves before beginning work

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

Always check gloves before beginning work.

Possible Corrective ActionN/A

Task Performed**Report #12**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Went to take out one of the jumpers off the OCR and discovered it was already completely loose, and was able to pull it out without loosening any hardware.

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

Always verify connections before energizing and check hardware before installing equipment

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #13**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Conducted a retirement on an open bank 16s meter set up for a switchover to a single 50 KVA transformer. As disconnecting one of the legs from the secondary bushing flag, then bent it downwards and accidentally brushed the tank ground and that tripped the CSP on the transformer.

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

Tape the ends

Possible Corrective ActionN/A

Task Performed**Report #14**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Arrived at site where a center phase was burned down. Firefighters and members were walking all over the downed wires. Firefighters arrived to the site first

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

Need to offer training to local firefighters to teach them what to do when around downed lines.

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 #15**

Meter Work

Incident Summary

While performing an initial inspection of a new primary meter, employee noticed the arrestors installed were the wrong size. Employee verified the size with the Engineering Department and confirmed the size was incorrect. The member was contacted to correct the error and service was energized after that was complete. Previous electrician installed arrestors.

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

Always inspect equipment prior to energizing to verify that it's installed properly and safe to energize.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A