FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC INSURANCE EXCHANGE

A reciprocal exchange managed by Federated Rural Electric Management Corp.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Dear Safety Professional: April / 2024

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**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

I had to let a 3-phase guy wire off so the city could run a new sewer line between the pole and guy wire.
The guy wire was backing up the 3-phase which hit a double circuit pole.
The 3-phase pole was newly set roughly 6 months ago.
After letting the guy wire off, the pole continued to push over and one of the phases came close to another phase on the double circuit pole.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes **Job Briefing Conducted -** No

Corrective Action Taken

Due to the pole leaning past expectations, the top entered the minimum approach distance.

Possible Corrective Action

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

P.O. Box 15147, Lenexa, KS 66285-5147 ■ 7725 Renner Road, Shawnee, KS 66217-9414
Phone: (800) 356-8360 / (913) 541-0150 ■ Fax: (913) 541-9004 ■ Web site: www.federatedrural.com

Task Performed **Report #2**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

We were working on replacing a 45ft C1 with the new 40ft C1 being set about 20ft from the old one. The old C1 was laid out the previous day. The old braces were in poor condition so additional braces were added to the old arm. The next day the new C1 was set and the A4 conductor was placed in hot arms on the new pole. The conductor was adding some down strain on the old arm and caused the old arm to break between the pole and new brace. The new brace prevented the arm from falling to the ground and the 2 phases were held up with the new pole. The line was on hotline tag but did not knock out the circuit. Everyone was clear from the line when the arm broke.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes **Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

Corrective Action Taken

Additional inspection of adjacent arms and replacement of arms if needed.

Possible Corrective Action

When energized work is performed inspect all equipment, structures, and conductors prior to beginning task.

Task Performed **Report #3**

URD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Pulling primary wire in new conduit at an energized transformer, linemen had the secondary covered up with a blanket. As they were pulling wire in with a rope, the rope got in contact with the service wire to an individual meter and cut the insulation on the wire. This caused one leg of the service to go out. Spliced the service and got the member back on.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes **Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

Corrective Action Taken

Verify that pulleys are set up properly. As the wire is being pulled in check that rope is in the clear of energized wire and equipment.

Possible Corrective Action

Ensure the equipment to be used is designed for the task, is the proper size and rating, and is properly installed to eliminate the potential for damage.

Task Performed **Report #4**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Single Phase (6A copperweld) line went down and remained energized.
Due to the amount of snow, the phase remained energized and the TripSaver feeding Single Phase line did not open. When the crew arrived onsite, the foreman notified Manager that the TripSaver was closed, and he had opened/tagged the TripSaver. Due to the snowstorm, the crew was unable to access the downed phase to make repairs, and member was placed on a generator for the night.

Safety Equipment in Use - No **Job Briefing Conducted -** No

Corrective Action Taken

Crew foreman identified hazard and de-energized line. Continue to practice proper Lock out Tag out procedures daily and in storm restorations.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed **Report #5**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Inspectors discovered a 3-phase underground line that was not stood off and the elbows were floating in close proximity to ground. Based on the company maps the elbows showed energized. They called the service area crew to test the cables, and the crew determined the elbows were energized. The elbows would have likely arced to ground if they were moved. Work was done by contractors but the elbows were not plugged back on. The crew reconnected one run but the other run was overlooked. There was an assumption that the contractor would plug them back on.

Safety Equipment in Use - No **Job Briefing Conducted -** No

Corrective Action Taken

Better communication with contractors and always standing off elbows on stand offs. Never leave an elbow floating.

Possible Corrective Action

Recommend refresher training for all line personnel to confirm understanding of working with contractors and communication when switching.

Task Performed **Report #6**

Driving

Incident Summary

Contract fiber crew was stringing in carrier and left the carrier unattended while it was hanging across a heavily traveled road. There were no signs, cones, or flaggers. I was traveling through in a bucket truck and almost caught the carrier as the contractor grabbed onto the carrier and pulled it up and over the boom of the truck. While this was occurring another fiber contractor was attaching the carrier to the next pole in a bucket truck. If the carrier was struck by the boom of the bucket truck it could have resulted in serious bodily injury or damage.

Safety Equipment in Use - No **Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

Corrective Action Taken

Have proper traffic control and flaggers if necessary when stringing in carrier over roadways.

Possible Corrective Action

Use defensive driving techniques to identify and avoid hazards on or near the roadway.

Task Performed **Report #7**

URD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

After installing new URD and two padmounts, we were making an open point in one of the transformers. Moved the hot elbow to a parking stand using hotstick. We were picking up dummy cap off the lid of the transformer with a hotstick when the ground wire on dummy cap came into contact with uncovered tranformer bushing. Wire flashed and blew the line fuse.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes **Job Briefing Conducted -** No

Corrective Action Taken

Be aware of drain wires in close quarters of transformer. Be aware of electrical potential on uncovered transformer bushings.

Possible Corrective Action

When energized work is performed, ensure all differences of potential are covered.

Task Performed **Report #8**

Public Liability

Incident Summary

Customer stopped linemen at a sub and said they had dug into the primary underground by an irrigation pivot. When linemen arrived at the riser pole only one cutout was open. Opened the other two cutouts and grounded the underground wire. They went to the pivot and customer had hit two of the wires. Helped them finish digging over the wires, exposing them so we could splice.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes **Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

Corrective Action Taken

Continue reminding customers about contacting 811 prior to digging.

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 #9**

URD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Customer called in that a pole was burned in a prescribed burn. Checked the poles along the highway and found that pole was burned bad enough to replace.

Safety Equipment in Use - No **Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

Corrective Action Taken

Reminded customer of the hazards and costs of burning cooperative equipment.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed **Report #10**

Public Liability

Incident Summary

Customer reported their sprayer had hit a cooperative pole at the end of the driveway. Checked it out, took pictures, pole will need to be replaced.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes **Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

Corrective Action Taken

Continue reminding customers to be aware of their surroundings.

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 #11**

Substation Work

Incident Summary

While hanging a three-phase vacuum recloser in the substation, we were using the derrick to position the recloser for mounting and a lineman on a ladder to tighten the retaining bolts. Work had been completed, and we were removing the transformer straps held in place by a clevis. As the lineman on the ladder removed the last clevis, the derrick operator started to swing the boom, not realizing that the lineman's arm had become entangled in the straps. The derrick operator stopped swinging the boom so the lineman could regain his balance back on the ladder.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes **Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

Corrective Action Taken

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

Confirm that employees are in the clear when operating mechanical equipment.

Task Performed **Report #12**

Public Liability

Incident Summary

Member called and reported that the chain around his gate was sparking, and the lock on the gate was too hot to touch. Crew measured 16 volts from the pole ground to the fence. They also discovered that there was voltage everywhere they checked on the barbed wire fence. They found that the ground wire on the transformer had made contact with the x3 bushing and was welded to the lug on the x3 bushing and was also connected to the ground lug of the transformer.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes **Job Briefing Conducted -** No

Corrective Action Taken

Employees did wear all the necessary PPE to protect themselves for the hazards with this trouble call. However there was an exposure to the member.

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 #13**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Lineman had an outage, phase and neutral were burned down. Lineman was pulling wire out of the ditch and had about 15 feet left in the ditch so he flung it out of the ditch. The end of the wire whipped around and went through his left hand. He called the farmer to come help him cut the wire so he could go to the ER.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes **Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

Corrective Action Taken

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

Ensure that all appropriate PPE is worn when handling objects that pose a puncture or cut hazard.
