



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.

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## Task Performed

## Report #1

OHD Construction/Maintenance

## Incident Summary

After installing bypass cutouts on VC8 for a new 3 phase viper, lineman was cutting the old 477 jumpers out of the center phase with a sawzall, the bottom half (battery portion) of the sawzall contacted the metal extension link connecting the bells to the eye bolt on the top of the iron pole, causing 1900 amp fault. The fault tripped open the circuit that was on hot line tag and fried the sawzall. No injuries were sustained.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - No

**Job Briefing Conducted** - Yes

## Corrective Action Taken

"When work is to be performed on or near energized lines, all energized parts and other parts or equipment, of a different potential, with in reach of any part of the body, shall be covered with rubber protective equipment rated for the voltage to be worked, except for the conductor on which the employee is to work."

- 1) Use blankets to cover other parts of different potential.
- 2) Make sure the designated observer is watching at all times to help identify hazards and missed steps.
- 3) Use correct tool for cutting 477 conductor.

## Possible Corrective Action

When energized work is performed, ensure all differences of potential are covered and a designated observer is in place.

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

Office/Facility Incident

**Incident Summary**

During an equipment inspection as a part of a climbing test, I noticed that something didn't look right with the OX Block on the hand-line. The bolt that holds the hook to the OX Block had backed itself almost all the way out. After closer inspection the jam nut had backed out which allowed the bolt to loosen itself. I tightened the bolts and the OX block was taken to the mechanics where they added thread locker to prevent the bolt from loosening in the future. Need to inspect all and have discussion with lineman.

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

Always check your equipment before use to make sure it is in good working condition.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Inspect equipment prior to use to ensure manufacturer's specifications are met and equipment is set up properly to complete task.

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

Office/Facility Incident

**Incident Summary**

I pulled up to a job site, parked my truck, and proceeded to pull the cones out of the bed of my truck. There had been spider webs on the bottom of my cones for about a week, but I didn't think much of it. When I reached down to grab my cones, I realized that there was a black widow tucked up in the base of my cone, right where I was grabbing the cone. I found a stick on the ground and I was able to remove the black widow safely.

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

If you notice spider webs in tool boxes, cones, etc., be sure to take a closer look before reaching for equipment.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Driving

**Incident Summary**

While heading south on a county road, just after a curve, I observed a car heading toward me in the wrong lane. I started to brake and move over to the center turn lane. The car entered the ditch directly in front of me and then proceeded through the grass and then back up onto the road.

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

Always be a alert and be a defensive driver. We discussed the importance of being alert and avoiding "auto-pilot" mode as described in our Safety Training courses.

**Possible Corrective Action**

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

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

OHD Restoration/Repair

**Incident Summary**

Customer had company painting barn. Guy painting left his boom up and drove into the customers secondary wires, which ended up tearing down top 5 feet of the meter loop and tore cooperatives triplex off the pole.

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

Customer stated they stopped the driver after they hit equipment as they had continued to drive. Continue public education on safety.

**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 #6**

Driving

**Incident Summary**

The safety latch on the tow chains was broken. While driving down the interstate, the chain came loose from the truck. The hook broke off the chain and hit the car's windshield behind them.

The driver inspected the vehicle and trailer before leaving. He knew the latch was broken but thought the hook would stay attached to the truck.

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

When a driver finds a deficiency while conducting an inspection, the driver should report it to the fleet manager, who will decide whether the vehicle is safe to drive or take out of service.

**Possible Corrective Action**

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

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

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew showed up at cabinet, requested hot line tag, contractor was vaccing for us to tuck in 3 phase wire. Lightning hit end of line three days prior. Opened up cabinet and noticed B phase elbow was floating off of parking stand. It was a normal open hot elbow. We looked at elbow and parking stand, confirmed okay, so decided to plug elbow back onto parking stand. One person on stick at very end and when he plugged it in, it exploded. Spoke to office, we locked out circuit 3, while it was locked out we changed out parking stand and looked over elbow, plugged back in and had office close circuit 3 with SCADA.

**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.

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

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was told to vacc at job site but not dig due to high pressure gas on site. Stand-by from gas company would be there from 12 pm. Locator showed up, located wire and gas pipe, we vacc'd and found it. Locator left without communication to crew, so crew thought it was okay to dig. Crew dug 10 ft each way with mini excavator and back hoe, with a man watching gas pipe, we were 1.5 ft away digging by hand. At noon crew decided to plow it, laid wire over gas with 1.5 ft padded with dirt, dropped plow in. Stand-by from gas company showed up at job site, and wanted to know who was in charge. He asked foreman what he thought he was doing digging over high pressure gas, foreman stated they vacc'd it. Stand-by wanted wire and plow tooth out of hole so he could see pipe. Crew hand dug 1.5 ft of dirt off pipe to show gas line. Foreman smoothed it over with stand-by, everything was fine.

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

It was decided the stand-by would inform the locator to communicate better with the crew that he was not the stand-by to eliminate the communication error in the future. A better line of communication between locator and stand-by for gas company going forward.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Confirm locates have been completed before mechanical excavation begins and pothole facilities within the excavation to confirm location. Ensure ongoing communication with other utilities while working around their facilities.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was changing out A5 and de-energized primary. The member had a generator and it kicked on when power was turned off. Crew removed meter. The pole had two runs of triplex coming off of A5 going to meter pole. Wire was dropped down and pole was changed out. New pole was installed and crew started pulling wire back up on pole and make connections on the triplex. The bottom run of triplex sparked when lineman was trying to get wire in position. Crew stopped what they were doing and went to investigate. After investigation crew noticed that bottom run went back to top side of meter loop and inside meter loop wire had been installed to feed back up through meter loop from generator to keep livestock fence on during power outage. The member had created his own 5 wire loop. Always check and double check.

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

Speak with member and ask about completely shutting off generator while crew is present.

**Possible Corrective Action**

When working on electric utilities with a generator present, it's important to take precautions to ensure safety, including using a transfer switch, turning off main breakers and removing fuses, and being aware of electrical backfeed. Follow generator manufacturer's instructions.

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

Line/Substation Switching

**Incident Summary**

Crew was out with engineer by-passing substation reclosers for controller firmware upgrade. Engineer was radio communicator. Plan was made before starting, one of the crew would hang by-pass fuses while engineer got clearance. This step was repeated each circuit at each substation. At the last substation the last circuit was closed in and the fuse blew due to the circuit not being completed outside of the substation. No outage, just a loud boom. Crew that was in the substation doing the work could not see the lock out tag on the last circuit due to wind, closed in on an unfinished circuit.

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

We have expanded our best practice on better markings for out of service circuits that will be carried out in all switching.

**Possible Corrective Action**

When reenergizing circuits, confirm with a visual inspection of all equipment and line prior to energizing.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

While walking out downed wire in the right-of-way, I stepped, heard a crack and partially fell into an old well or septic tank.

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

Location to be evaluated to see if it can be marked or filled in to prevent future reoccurrence.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Stay aware of personal safety at all times.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Crew was framing 3-phase poles on gravel road. Hot line tag was on due to work done previously in the day (not usually on for framing). After framing a pole and setting it down in the ditch, lineman swung Derrick boom toward line to stow boom and swung into existing 3 phase overhead line.

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

Have a spotter when running digger. Put 1 shot on line to prevent accident. Proper training for operators.

**Possible Corrective Action**

When working around energized lines, ensure employees are clear of equipment that could become energized, and truck grounding/barricading procedures are followed. Confirm that employees are trained on all line construction equipment prior to operating it.

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

OHD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Contract Lineman placed hot conductor onto the top-side of two-angle pole top pins insulator and flash occurred. Lineman immediately removed conductor from the insulator and the flash subsided. Insulator was replaced and conductor was tied in, without injury. (New 25KV Polymer F Neck, Tie Top Insulator was in use at occurrence.)

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

Always inspect new materials before use. We will also contact our vendor and manufacturer as part of our investigation.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Inspect all equipment to confirm the equipment meets voltage, insulation, and current requirements prior to installing.

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

URD Construction/Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

While operating trencher, the chain came off the tip of the bar and came to a resting point about a foot from my operators seat.

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

Ensure that all digging components are greased well before each use.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Inspect equipment prior to use to ensure manufacturer's specifications are met and equipment is set up properly to complete task.

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

Material Handling/Securing

**Incident Summary**

We were loading transformer for job. When I went to strap transformer down and pull ratchet strap tight the strap broke. I then fell off of the truck onto my wrist and shoulder.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Inspect and confirm equipment and tools for securing, rigging, and lifting are in excellent operating condition and are designed for the task. Stay aware of personal safety at all times.

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

Driving

**Incident Summary**

Pole framed as a C1.41/C5.71 with phasing pre-marked on arms. Changed lower arm to C1.41. Set the pole with cant off 180 degrees. This caused phasing on top arm to be wrong. CN stickers were noticed wrong on bottom arm and were changed. When wire was strung and connections were made phasing on arms was followed. This caused center phase and neutral to be switched on top arm. Line was energized with blades, which caused A phase in sub to open. Blades were opened after breaker operated, sub was re-energized and connections were corrected.

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

Peer check when a job is completed before energized.

**Possible Corrective Action**

When reenergizing circuits, confirm with a visual inspection of all equipment and line prior to energizing.

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**Task Performed****Report #17**

Driving

**Incident Summary**

All the trucks pulled up in a line to the deadend pole to sag wire. Linemen all got out and talked about who was going to pull up the wire and who was going to sag in the wire. Got back in truck to back it up and make room for a truck to set up and deadend wire. Lineman backed up the truck and made contact with the front bumper of another truck.

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

360 degree walk around and use back-up cameras.

**Possible Corrective Action**

The cooperative's safety rules should require drivers to walk completely around a parked vehicle to complete a "Circle Check" of the vehicle to be driven before it is moved.

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