



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

A reciprocal exchange managed by Federated Rural Electric Management Corp.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

September / 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 Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Outage came in during a heavy rain/wind event. The linemen were sent out on the outage, and found the source of the outage at a tap. The member at this location had hired a contractor to put a garage on their house. The addition was directly under the primary. When the linemen arrived they found 2x4's holding up the neutral, which the contractor had used to gain clearance on the roof of the garage addition. During the storm, the primary and neutral made contact with each other and caused the outage. In speaking with the contractor, he said "I know what happened. The board I had holding up the top wire (primary) kicked out and let the wire drop down and hit the bottom wire." I explained to the contractor that what they had done was very unsafe and that they need to call us if they need a line raised or moved.

Safety Equipment in Use - No

Job Briefing Conducted - No

Corrective Action Taken

N/A

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 #2**

Material Handling/Securing

Incident Summary

Laying out 3 phase on a C1 to put in new pole. Road phase in road side hot arm, B phase and field phase in field phase hot arm. Transferred road phase to new pole and tied it in. When removing road side hot arm from old pole the crossarm braces broke causing arm to tilt and phases getting into each other. B phase and field phase cutouts opened up.

Safety Equipment in Use - Yes**Job Briefing Conducted - No****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 #3**

Material Handling/Securing

Incident Summary

Latch on trailer was not locked and when Gator was loaded trailer came off the hitch.

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

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

Inspect vehicles and trailers to ensure they are properly hooked up prior to loading equipment. Confirm with a visual inspection of all equipment that it is road worthy prior to travel.

Task Performed**Report #4**

URD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

A dirt contractor was digging in a new drain line on a large construction site. They called for locates and had the cable located. Prior to work starting they were potholing our 4/0 3Ø primary UG. Cable was approximately 7' deep. While potholing, the operator blew a hole through the 4/0 cable. The cut was approximately 1 mile from the substation backed by a breaker with a minimum trip set at 400 amps. Operator of the vac was standing on the ground with pressure wand, claimed he never felt anything. Circuit locked out.

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

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

When potholing to locate utilities, confirm the proper nozzle pressure is utilized according to manufacturer recommendations. Ensure that all appropriate PPE is in use when working around energized equipment.

Task Performed**Report #5**

Meter Work

Incident Summary

Went to pull meter. Meter socket broke free from meterbase. Was able to reattach without causing an arc

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

Long sleeve Cat 2 FR shirt, Cat 2 FR pants, hardhat, gloves, and safety glasses are to be worn when replacing meters in energized meter bases. Possibly start an initiative to replace these style meterbases.

Possible Corrective Action

Inspect all metering equipment prior to operating or changing position of equipment. Ensure required Personal Protective Equipment is donned prior to inspection and beginning work.

Task Performed**Report #6**

OHD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Breaker pole opened. Customer caught neutral wire by pole with combine's grain auger. Customer tore down neutral for two spans and through three other spans and broke pole top.

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

Continued education.

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 #7**

URD Restoration/Repair

Incident Summary

Cooperative received phone call that an underground wire was hit. After arriving on the scene, it was discovered it was the customer wire that was hit. Contacted electrician and stayed on scene until he arrived.

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

Continue educating the public.

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 #8**

OHD Construction/Maintenance

Incident Summary

Lineman went to remove a hotline clamp of a transformer stinger wire with an eight-foot stick and didn't realize that the extra slack in the stinger wire would be able to make contact with a ground wire from the pole. While loosening the clamp, the slack in the wire contacted a ground wire. Hotline tag was on and the recloser opened immediately and minimized arc flash.

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

Hazard recognition by lineman and designated observer will help to prevent any reoccurrence.

Possible Corrective Action

When energized work is performed, ensure that a member of the crew is identified to act as a designated observer to help confirm clearances are maintained, appropriate PPE is in use and effective cover-up is installed.
