



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

A reciprocal exchange managed by Federated Rural Electric Management Corp.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

August / 2016

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

Member Billing Consultation

Incident Summary

Member came into the office to discuss billing matters. She went into a side room so she could speak with a Member Service Rep. in private. When the member attempted to sit down she bumped the chair which rolled out from under her causing her to fall hard into the wall. She was not injured but if she was it could have been a much worse situation.

Safety Equipment in Use - No

Job Briefing Conducted - No

Corrective Action Taken

All chairs available to the public that had wheels have been replaced with non rolling chairs.

Possible Corrective Action

Remove wheels from chairs available to the public.

Task Performed**Report #2**

Connecting battery back-up

Incident Summary

Connecting metal bars that connect -48vdc battery string to central office. Adjustable wrench was used and was not insulated. All we had. Wrench touched battery stack frame and caused an arc. No injuries.

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

Always have insulated tools when working near any voltage in the central office.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #3**

Digging pole hole

Incident Summary

4 employees went out to change out 3 phase poles energized and on one shot. We had a tailboard and talked about the energized lines as well as our work procedures. The two Journeymen were up in buckets performing a lift of the line and an Apprentice was operating the digger derrick and an Apprentice was on the ground handling the poles.

The Digger operator dug the hole with no problems and I hooked the auger sling up and he started to stow the auger. While he was stowing the auger I grabbed the pole tongs so we could move a pole out of the way of the bucket trucks. As soon as I got over the fence I looked up and saw that he had boomed straight up and into the field phase with his fiberglass boom. I got his attention quickly and he boomed down and swung out away from the line. No injuries were received with this incident and no damages were caused.

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

In the future to prevent this we can get in a better habit of stowing and un-stowing the auger off the back of the digger truck or on the opposite side of the line. We could have also waited until everyone was at the pole before we started to dig.

Possible Corrective Action

Ground the truck when it is in close proximity to the line and apply cover-up.

Task Performed**Report #4**

Locate URD at Sub

Incident Summary

1 lineman was in the sub with 2 electricians to locate the faulted URD. The communication at the shop that morning was to locate the "south" circuit at the sub. The circuit that was the faulted one was located on the south riser, but actually fed east. The circuit that fed south was the center riser. The bypass fuses are "stored" in the open position for each circuit. The lineman failed to look for the visual open and the hold tags had gotten blown off over the few months of winter. He went to the riser that fed the south circuit, put on his rubber gloves, connected the ground connector of the locator, then connected the other lead to the energized bypass bus, destroying the locator. Given the other mistakes in the process, it highlights the fact that GLOVES are the last line of defense, and they work.

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

Verify visual opens and test for voltage. When unable to ground, treat as energized.

Possible Corrective Action

Review Lockout/Tagout & clearance procedures.

Task Performed**Report #5**

Adding new pdmt trans from existing pdmt trans.

Incident Summary

Work was believed to have been completed on the primary elbow in the new pad-mount transformer. It was not. Workers were called away due to an emergency the day before. Different employees returned the next day.

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

Before any job is started a job briefing/tailgate meeting shall be completed to discuss the job. Multiple days and/or multiple crews may be involved with any job. All jobs shall be discussed and equipment or services shall be inspected prior to energizing.

Employees involved in this incident had a post job briefing and agreed that the above procedure will take place in the future.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #6**

Opening a fuse door on a porcelain cutout

Incident Summary

Had to open up the cutout to change a blown fuse and the cutout broke leaving the top energized portion just hanging by the jumper. The other portion came with the stick. This was not the first failed cutout we have had. I think they are affected by water and freeze/thaw cycle. A piece of the cutout could strike someone or if you were close in a bucket, could have an arc.

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

We try to visually inspect the cutouts prior to climbing a pole or doing work on the cutout because of past problems with these cutouts.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #7**

Driving to job

Incident Summary

Switch tied in on back of truck with company approved ratchet strap. Strap broke and switch fell off truck onto road. Primary bushing was broken.

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

Use ratchet strap to attach loose items.

Possible Corrective Action

Inspect tie-down equipment before use.

Task Performed**Report #8**

Fueling Truck

Incident Summary

While fueling truck with diesel fuel, employee started to do paperwork in the truck. When employee looked out to see if truck was full, he saw that the diesel was pouring out of tank. The shut off on nozzle didn't work.

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

Employee should remain by fuel pump while truck is being fueled.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #9**

N/A

Incident Summary

Employee 1 tried to throw grip up to employee 2 in bucket, but grip hit bucket and fell on to transformer breaking primary bushing.

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

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

Use handline to raise and lower material & tools.

Task Performed**Report #10**

Outage restoration

Incident Summary

Took flex trac in to retie primary neutral. Broke through ice with Flex, water about 1 foot deep, continued on and completed work. On our way out, we got stuck in muck/mud/water. Used truck winch and tow ropes to get flex out, but in the process the metal steps hanging off the side of the Flex got caught on the edge of ice and bent the step and also noticed after pulling the flex out that the winch line now has several broken strands.

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

Should have made a new track out instead of following old path.

Possible Corrective Action

Inspect area before driving equipment into area.

Task Performed**Report #11**

Line maintenance

Incident Summary

Truck was parked into the wind. While trying to get tools and material out of bins, the doors kept trying to close against me. The latch is right at elbow height and banged my elbow off of it multiple times through the night, causing my elbow to be sore for the next few days.

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

Put new cylinders on the bin doors.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #12**

Patrol Line

Incident Summary

While patrolling transmission line (in deep right-of-way) with a 4 wheeler, the employee started to get stuck so they backed out of tracks. They started to make a u-turn and unknowingly drove onto a pond where the rear of the machine fell through the ice and front end stayed on top. Had to push open the door to move ice away and then exited the machine. After he closed the door, the machine fell through the ice and sank in about 18 feet of water. Driver was not made aware of the pond when given permission by the landowner to patrol.

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

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

Inspect area as thoroughly as possible before entering and note on system maps hazards.

Task Performed**Report #13**

N/A

Incident Summary

While driving, missed 2 deer and then a 3rd deer ran into the driver's side of truck when he was almost stopped.

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

N/A

Possible Corrective ActionN/A

Task Performed**Report #14**

Reading meters

Incident Summary

While reading meters, slipped and fell off of wooden deck. (slipped on second step) Fell on right side, with right hip sore

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

Slow down and look for hazards - poor lighting attributed to incident

Possible Corrective Action

Consider slip resistant foot wear.

Task Performed**Report #15**

Pulling in new wire

Incident Summary

As employee stepped off rope machine and walked away, twisted left ankle. Machine is in a plowed field.

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

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #16**

Pulling wire

Incident Summary

While pulling wire in with tugger and bull wheel, kellem grip got caught in first roller and broke. Rope flew west 1 span, wrapped on rope for neutral. Neutral block caught rope but the rope in that block got wedged in block and damaged. Line was in non-reclose - no outage occurred. (All personnel were clear of area in case something let go. This time it did.)

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

Possibly a bigger block? Change setup - get wire through block to lessen chances of grip getting caught.

Possible Corrective Action

Consider an observer with radio connection to puller & tensioner to follow the kellem grip.

Task Performed**Report #17**

Changing ball field light poles.

Incident Summary

Changing Ball field light poles. Pulled pole and was laying it down. Had it about 4'-6' from ground when the butt of the pole kicked up jamming 3 fingers on my right hand.

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

N/A

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #18**

LOCATE

Incident Summary

Went to job site to do the locate and was informed they wouldn't be near our wires. Thus marking the ticket all clear. Construction worker then hit the conduit when they were cutting.

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

Locate all wires within any reasonable distance of work being performed.

Possible Corrective Action

Mark all wire in the area, as requested by locate ticket.

Task Performed**Report #19**

Installing backup battery box for stop lights

Incident Summary

An employee used a step ladder leaning on a pole rather than having the braces locked. The employee also used the top step while others held the ladder to reach part of the work. On site was also a bucket truck and line truck which both had extension ladders that should have been used.

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

The rule in place states to follow the proper use of a ladder according to the manufacturer. The ladder is clearly labeled not to use the top step. Ladder safety is a topic every year.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed**Report #20**

Going to switch line

Incident Summary

backed #15 into #11

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

Have someone watch you backup &/or walk around truck before moving truck

Possible Corrective Action

Use 2nd employee as spotter if available or park vehicles in a position to pull forward when leaving location.

Task Performed**Report #21**

Patrolling line

Incident Summary

While patrolling line looking for troubles drove off into bull hole- broke A-frame on front end of Gator

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

Need to be more cautious driving in tall grass

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed

Locate underground

Report #22**Incident Summary**

Left locator on back of truck and drove back to shop

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

Walk around truck before driving.

Possible Corrective Action

Insure all equipment is secure prior to moving vehicle.

Task Performed

Contractors bulding shed

Report #23**Incident Summary**

Contractors building a shed were using a fork lift to raise tin sheeting and the sheeting came within 4 feet from the cooperative's primary. Crew de-energized the line until they were finished.

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

We inform the public through radio ads/ newsletter/ website and brochures.

Possible Corrective Action

N/A

Task Performed

Installing yard light

Report #24**Incident Summary**

New yard light had a bare wire that shorted when reflector pan was installed.

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

Wear PPE

Possible Corrective Action

Inspect new lights before installation

Task Performed

Backing truck into shop

Report #25**Incident Summary**

While backing vehicle into the warehouse - ran into the tire of the contractor's fork lift

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

Circle Check

Possible Corrective Action

Use spotter if available.
