



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC  
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

*A reciprocal exchange managed by Federated Rural Electric Management Corp.*

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

October / 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.

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**Task Performed**

**Report #1**

Contractors building shed

**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

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**Task Performed**  
Installing yard light

**Report #2**

**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

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**Task Performed**

Backing truck into shop

**Report #3**

**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.

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**Task Performed**

Re-connecting Triplex for house.

**Report #4**

**Incident Summary**

Electrician was done wiring at the meter, needed heated up. Went to connect one of the hot leg and it arced when I went to connect. Found the cause. conductor wore through the insulation and grounded itself out in the Triplex.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** No

**Corrective Action Taken**

Ohmed wires and found the cause.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Ohm the circuit prior to energizing.

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

Installing rubber cover up

**Incident Summary**

Lineman felt a shock in his left hand while installing a rubber line hose on the primary line. He immediately backed the bucket away and tested his gloves and found a hole between the thumb and index finger.

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

You shall air test your gloves before each days use and after any occurrence that could have potentially damaged the gloves.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Test gloves prior to each use.

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**Task Performed****Report #6**

Clearing trees off conductor at broken pole

**Incident Summary**

Bucket truck at been parked at a Pole and crew was working uphill of this pole to remove downed trees on conductor to reach next pole that was already down from trees. Pole had broke at telephone attachment but was visible from ground. when trees came off conductor the top of this pole came off and fell onto the bucket truck parked below with direct blow to the top boom and could have easily killed anyone who might have been on or near the truck. The weight of the 45 class2 pole, arms and 4- 336 acsr conductors bounced off boom and onto side bins before sliding into bed of truck.

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

APPA SAFETY Manual Section 503 , this was just a freak of nature accident. Employees were not on site when trees fell on line but consumers reported afterwards that the line and pole shook violently during this storm. In our opinion the whiplash effect caused the pole to snap and set in position until pressure was removed on the conductor and fell on said bucket truck. Our suggestion is for our lineman to be more aware of possible damages and to take consideration of such conditions before positioning vehicles in a work zone.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Right of way permitting

**Incident Summary**

Viewed two men attempting to trim trees with home made portable ladder. Single phase 7200 V line along side trees. Employee stopped and advised the men to discontinue work so as not to be injured or killed. He informed the men that our tree contractor would be in the area in a matter of days and that they should have called before attempting to trim trees close to power lines.

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

Public education of hazards of trimming trees near power lines.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Outage Restoration

**Incident Summary**

Working storm restoration, had been working since 7:00 AM the morning before due to severe storms the day before. The employee was in route to next the outage, when he dozed off at the wheel. the bucket went off the road and came to a stop in the ditch. there was no damage to the truck or the occupants. Seatbelts were worn at the time of the incident

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

We have a rule requiring the use of seatbelts, but the near miss was caused by lack of sleep. A policy is being written to establish limits on the amount of time an employee may work between before taking time off to rest. Employees have also been encouraged to let their superior know if they need to rest, regardless of the number of hours they have worked.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Changing pole

**Incident Summary**

When disconnecting the lower phase of a TS-3 69kv structure, the line sagged 1-1/2 spans away and contacted an energized 7200V distribution line. Never has a line sagged so much past the 1st span. In hindsight, the TS-3 was in a 30 degree turn, which created more slack than normal and as the 1st phase was disconnected and it pulled to one side, putting stress on the surrounding TS-1 structures and twisted them enough to create more line sag than would be normal 1-1/2 spans away. There were no injuries.

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

All underbuilds, overbuilds, roadways or other obstructions within reasonable distance, 5 spans there about, should be evaluated and discussed the crew as to the type of mitigation need to insure everyone's safety - ie, de-energize or cover-up underbuilt or overbuilt lines and/or support our lines to keep them from sagging.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Untie wire on pole

**Incident Summary**

Slipped on grating on top of body

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

none

**Possible Corrective Action**

Use handrails where available.

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

Underground transformer change-out

**Incident Summary**

While replacing 37 KVA underground transformer, home-made rope(1/2 poly-rope) used for lifting transformer broke approximately two feet off of the ground. Crew was unable to use digger derrick due to location of work to be done.

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

Use proper, rated devices to lift, suspend any objects.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Outage call/no power

**Incident Summary**

Blind spot in mirror hindered driver from seeing on coming traffic. Driver nearly pulled out in front of vehicle. Passenger in truck alerted driver avoiding accident.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Always employ deffensive driving techniques.

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

stowing auger

**Incident Summary**

When stowing the auger - the auger came off the shaft and landed in the ditch. The bolt fell out of the shaft holding the auger.

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

To climb up and inspect during inspections

**Possible Corrective Action**

Inspection of unit prior to operation.

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

Work being done by a contractor at member facility

**Incident Summary**

Director of operations came upon a member and contractors constructing powerhouse building under transformer bank. 2 contractors were on the roof preparing for installation of the tin. He informed them that they were way to close to energized bank. They agreed to give us time to shut down the line.

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

Contractors must contact the utility when working within 10 feet of energized line

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Installing winch on snow machine

**Incident Summary**

While drilling holes in tunnel of snowmobile to mount winch, bit went through tunnel , hand slipped catching on foot rest ripping part of fingernail.

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

Wear proper ppe when operating power tools, work gloves are provided but not in use at the time.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Reframing pole off hooks

**Incident Summary**

Lineman working off hooks was reframing pole. Lineman was using an impact tool and nutrunner fell out of the end, while groundman was searching for the nutrunner in the snow the impact tool fell out of the grunt bag. m after yelling headache the groundman moved out of the way just in time to be missed.

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

That all ground personnel must be clear of base of pole or drop zone unless assisting by handline, also will look into some tethering devices for certain tools that are being used aloft.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Underground training was being performed at our COLT training facility.

**Incident Summary**

As the statewide, we were performing hands-on training in an underground class where we energize our open-loop system at 120/208. When the instructor had his group test an energized cable for presence of voltage through use of a feed-thru and a test rod, the cable tested dead, and this was after the tester had been proven to be working. Both the elbow and the test rod had been confirmed to be fully inserted into the feed-thru parking stand as well. After further investigation of troubleshooting, they took continuity on the test rod, and it had none! It appears to be one solid piece, but the Elastimold TR70 test rod actually has two screw-in points. The brass piece that screws in appears to be the piece that was not making connection. When unscrewed, it appeared that threadlock had been used which seemed to be the culprit that was preventing the rod from making electrical connection. On a recent RESAP observation, a TR70 test rod on a truck was found to be defective in the same manner!

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

Always test continuity before using any test rod to test cable for presence of voltage.

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #18**

Replace pole and install secondary underground cable

**Incident Summary**

Pole had been set. Crew members getting ready to tamp dirt in hole. Hydraulic tamp had been pulled off truck and was being held by crew member by the hole. When hydraulic lever was engaged at back of truck, hydraulic line blew spraying oil on face/chest of person holding tamp. Hydraulic lever was immediately disengaged. A dielectric hose(no steel mesh reinforcement) had been installed between the steel-mesh reinforced cable and the tamp.

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

Proper ppe was worn during incident limiting exposure.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #19**

URD fault

**Incident Summary**

Secondary underground had been dug up and cut. They checked voltage in transformer and at the damaged wire area. Volt meter indicated 0 voltage they proceeded to make repairs when one of them ran his hand over the conductor where he had a hole in his leather glove it shocked him.

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

Anything over 50 volts we wear our 600 volt gloves, but this tested dead.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Test meter prior to use.

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**Task Performed****Report #20**

Assisting fire fighters doing pole protection during grass fire

**Incident Summary**

During a wildland grass fire I was doing pole protection assisting the fire fighters with wet lines around poles to protect our equipment when I stepped into an old pole hole that was not filled in during a pole replacement work order.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed****Report #21**

Installing a 15kVa transformer

**Incident Summary**

Lineman set-up bucket on edge of roadway and shoulder of road. Line truck was parked in front of bucket truck with transformer to be installed. Left outriggers were touching white line on highway and right outriggers were on edge of ditch. Lineman failed to place outrigger pads under outriggers to ensure a stable platform for use of bucket truck. Lineman boomed over cab of bucket to line truck to attach transformer to jib. Crew foreman attached transformer to jib and lineman boomed up and around without booming back to bucket truck. Bucket truck tipped over and fell on end of boom jib, which kept bucket truck from falling completely on its side. Nobody was injured and the truck was not damaged where it could not be driven. The only damage was isolated to the boom, bucket and jib.

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

Outrigger pads should be used anytime a "solid surface" is not present.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed**

ENERGIZING NEW SUBSTATION

**Report #22****Incident Summary**

POTENTIAL TRANSFORMER SPLIT APART WHEN ENERGIZED -- HIGH SIDE 69KV  
BREAKER OPENED

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

PPE --- STAY CLEAR

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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