



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC  
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Safety Professional:

September / 2018

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**

Facility Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

During monthly fire extinguisher inspections, extinguisher at gas pumps was missing the discharge nozzle. It was in an enclosed unit, but had somehow been broken off.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted** - No

**Corrective Action Taken**

Placed extinguisher out of service and replaced with new extinguisher.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed**  
OHD Maintennace

**Report #2**

**Incident Summary**

Crew was about to use tamp and noticed that the protective wrap around the hydraulic hoses was split. On further inspection, they found that a piece of the protective sheath over the hydraulic hose had been damaged.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

Tamp was removed from the truck, placed out of service and replaced.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Complete tool inspection prior to use.

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**Task Performed**  
Public Liability

**Report #3**

**Incident Summary**

Called to a report of a wire down and broken strands on phase. Neutral was torn down and was strung out into field. Neutral must of been thrown up into phase and burnt strands loose. When we got it back up we had 21 '10 to neutral.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

Customer is to contact Cooperative of any outages, lines down and they did. Continue to inform public to be more aware of surroundings.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Customer had telephone wire running from transformer pole, to carrying pole, to customer secondary pole. Wire was cut off of both ends, so we removed all attachments to coop poles. As we were leaving, customers pole fell over because of rot. Phone wire must have been anchoring pole from falling over. Lineman called customer to tell them what happened and he was okay with contacting electrician to put in new pole. Lineman disconnected duplex wire from meter pole so it would be safe.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Inspect all poles prior to work.

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

Public Liability

**Incident Summary**

Received a call that customers power was off. After arriving, at breaker pole, found it was open. Patrolled the 1 phase line and found a sprayer was in the field that had a down phase in it. The operator wasn't sure if he had hit anything, but the boom cylinder was bent and he was working on it. Disconnected the tap and put the breaker pole back in. Then checked with the sprayer operator to make sure it was ok to enter the field. Backed into the field and resagged the phase and neutral. Heated tap back up.

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

Repaired lines. Continue educating public on being aware of surroundings.

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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

Public Liability

**Incident Summary**

No power call received. Customer hit wire with ag sprayer. Arrived at location and found that sprayer hit guy wire on A4 breaking off pole and wire falling on machine. Secured scene, took pictures and cleared wires off machine.

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

Continue educating public on hazards when using large machinery.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Line Equipment Installation

**Incident Summary**

The recloser was installed with a bypass in place. Recloser display remained asleep with bypass closed. Miscommunication between engineer onsite and manufacturer resulted in an attempt to use AC Power Adapter to power display. Upon attempting to plug in AC Adapter a flash was caused. Crew was not aware that 9V contacts on recloser float at line voltage resulting in power cord being energized to line voltage.

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

Power cords (conductors) brought down from energized spaces will be treated as energized. Manufacturers will provide onsite training for new devices installed in energized spaces.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Driving

**Incident Summary**

Had truck pulled out of garage/shop to go on outage call. It started to hail and the wind picked up. Pulled truck in garage to get out of the hail and the garage door was not all of the way up and the boom hit the door.

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

Look up to make sure door is all of the way up before pulling in vehicle

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Driving

**Incident Summary**

Arrived to work location. Went to unhook trailer and jack for trailer was lost. Followed route back to town and couldn't locate the jack.

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

Installed a new jack at a higher location so it is not the lowest part of the trailer.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Complete pre-trip inspection.

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**Task Performed**  
PPE Inspection/Use

**Report #10**

**Incident Summary**

Employee had been on an outage in the early morning hours. Had inspected gloves and sleeves before use. Employee had just changed out protectors the previous work day. Later in the day, same employee got out gloves and sleeves to go into URD transformer. While inspecting gloves, he found a cut in thumb of protector. He removed protector and found cut in thumb of rubber glove. Employee suspects that the glove was pinched or cut while working the outage.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** No

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

Gloves and protectors were immediately replaced. This shows the importance of inspecting PPE before each use.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Compliments the value of inspecting PPE prior to use.

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**Task Performed**  
OHD Maintenance

**Report #11**

**Incident Summary**

One lead rope broke under tension. Outside lower phase flipped up into hot upper outside phase and started fire in corn chaff two spans back. No contact or other injuries sustained.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** No

**Job Briefing Conducted -** No

**Corrective Action Taken**

Equipment should be properly rated and inspected prior to use.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed**

URD Construction

**Report #12****Incident Summary**

Knife slipped when scoring cable.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Insure proper tools and PPE are used.

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**Task Performed**

URD Outage

**Report #13****Incident Summary**

Had a report of a single member outage, stating that they were out of power, upon arrival on-site I noticed that the primary riser was blown indicating that the "line" was out that fed multiple homes. I looked down the road at underground transformers and junction boxes and saw what I believed to be nothing wrong (no trees or cars obvious). Thinking it was an animal on the riser I re-fused the primary riser which "held". Roughly ten minutes later I received another outage call that someone on that particular line was still out of power. I called the office and had another lineman run on this call. Upon arrival the other lineman noticed a "feed-through" transformer had been run over the previous night and was obviously off of its "basement". The elbow that was exposed and floating was energized for approximately 20 minutes before the other lineman arrived and resolved the danger. No car was around and I would call the "hit" transformer "hidden in plain sight". Keep your eyes open

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

Run the "line" out before energizing.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Underground equipment should be inspected and OHD line should be inspected before re-energizing after any outage.

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

Transformer Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Two substation technicians were troubleshooting a ground detect alarm, caused by deteriorated wire in a conduit leading to the transformer liquid level gauge. When the two Sub. Techs. found the problem, all relevant AC and DC voltage sources were opened and tested for voltage at the transformer cabinet termination bar. No voltage was found. When they started to replace the worn wires, they unknowingly cut a CT circuit open. The CT circuit was used to warm the transformer oil well near the oil thermostat. The two Substation Tech's began to splice in the new wires when one of the Techs encountered an unknown source of electricity. The two Substation Technicians put on their low voltage gloves and finished the wire replacement without further incident.

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

Employee training about CT circuits, investigation and root cause analysis, and Safety Committee discussion.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

Meter Maintenance

**Incident Summary**

Meter tech went out to pull a meter and as he was pulling the top right lug came apart which made contact with the side of the meter and made a spark. The meter tech did not have any injuries due to him wearing his correct PPE. He did mention he felt a tingle on his elbow but there was no harm done to him.

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

When pulling meter make sure that all body parts are clear from contacting with the meter base. Also when pulling meter make sure that you are positioned to the side while pulling meter with your face turned away while pulling meter.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A



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

OHD Outage

**Incident Summary**

Serviceman was patrolling the line during storm restoration and came across a section of line where a tree had fallen and broken the primary and neutral. He was going to attempt to open this section of line with his long stick in order to isolate it and get as many member on as possible. The primary conductor was wrapped around the neutral so the serviceman decided to use his long stick to untangle the conductors. The primary came loose and slid down his stick. It was long enough to reach the ground so the lineman's reflex was to reach up and block the wire from hitting him. When he touched the wire, he was knocked to the ground for an unknown amount of time. When he regained his senses, the wire was still in his hand and he could feel voltage tingling in his hand and arm. It is believed that there was generator back feed on the line, but we were unable to verify that. We do not know how much voltage was on the line, but he was very fortunate that he wasn't seriously injured.

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

Always treat a line energized until it is open, tested, and grounded. Although the device was checked open, he did not have an open point or the line wasn't grounded.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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

OHD Outage

**Incident Summary**

Truck tore down triplex. Secured area, went up and disconnected transformer. Transformer was damaged along with #4 triplex, called other linemen to bring new 5KV & 85' #4 triplex as farmer wanted to put cattle in pasture over weekend.

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

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**N/A

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**Task Performed**  
OHD Maintenance

**Report #18**

**Incident Summary**

Cut jumper on A-4 and placed ground on tap where A-5 was to be changed. After work was completed, went back up in bucket to squeeze jumper back and forgot to remove the round on other side of pole. Lineman encountered flash when jumper touched energized line but was not injured. He was wearing all required PPE. Foreman and lineman both overlooked removing personal ground from the tap before attempting to re-energize it after the A-5 pole was changed out.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** Yes

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

Safety Committee will discuss the possibility of ALWAYS using a tag at the open point as a reminder to remove grounds before energizing the line, no matter how small the job or contained the work area. We have had a safety meeting reinforcing the need to ensure that grounds are removed prior to re-energizing a line.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed**  
OHD Maintenance

**Report #19**

**Incident Summary**

Extra hardware on pole fell from pole that was being changed out and hit employee on right shoulder. No medical treatment was needed.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** No

**Job Briefing Conducted -** No

**Corrective Action Taken**

It was discussed and this practice of putting extra hardware on poles will stop.

**Possible Corrective Action**

Insure all material & equipment is secure before lifting poles.

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**Task Performed**  
ROW Clearing/Maintenance

**Report #20**

**Incident Summary**

Employee was cutting trees and standing on fallen trees to get the last one down. When I let off the gas, I lost my footing and bumped the chaps and stopped the chain right away.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - No

**Job Briefing Conducted** - No

**Corrective Action Taken**

No changes wear chaps running chain saw

**Possible Corrective Action**

Insure solid footing when operating a chainsaw.

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**Task Performed**

Driving

**Report #21**

**Incident Summary**

Driving a bucket truck back to shop after an outage call. Met another vehicle traveling in the opposite direction on a gravel road. A rock was kicked up by the bucket truck, breaking the drivers side window of the passenger vehicle.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - No

**Job Briefing Conducted** - No

**Corrective Action Taken**

Safety Committee did not recommend anything

**Possible Corrective Action**

Insure all splash guards are in place on vehicle.

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**Task Performed**

OHD Outage

**Report #22**

**Incident Summary**

Semi-Truck hit a 3 phase in-line pole with a single phase transformer on it, breaking the pole at the base.

**Safety Equipment in Use** - No

**Job Briefing Conducted** - No

**Corrective Action Taken**

Install bollards around the pole location because of the proximity to truck traffic.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed**  
OHD Maintenance

**Report #23**

**Incident Summary**

Man was in the air in a bucket, installing street light. Truck was barricaded and flashing strobe lights were on. Reflective Safety Vests were being worn. Groundsman noticed a car veering towards them. Driver was not looking at road. Groundsman yelled at everyone on-site. Car stopped before hitting anything, but had come to a stop halfway inside barricades. Car was heading straight into the back of the bucket truck.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** No

**Job Briefing Conducted -** No

**Corrective Action Taken**

N/A

**Possible Corrective Action**

Insure proper workzone setup.

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**Task Performed**  
OHD Maintenance

**Report #24**

**Incident Summary**

After working in hooks off of the pole, for an hour and a half on secondary wires, I came to the ground to remove my climbing gear and became dizzy and nauseous. Got out of the sun and drank water and slowly began to feel better.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** No

**Job Briefing Conducted -** No

**Corrective Action Taken**

Drink more water to be better hydrated and take more frequent breaks during hot weather.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed**  
OHD Construction

**Report #25**

**Incident Summary**

After using digger derrick and stowed in transport position, crew heard a bang of some sort. Before using the derrick, crew noticed pin holding auger in place was missing and found broken. This was the factory pin.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** No

**Job Briefing Conducted -** No

**Corrective Action Taken**

Pre-use inspections are in place at this cooperative. Correct replacement pin was installed.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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**Task Performed**  
OHD Maintennace

**Report #26**

**Incident Summary**

While working at base of pole, crew bumped pole. A portion of a porcelain open style cut-out broke and fell. Crew member was struck on his hard hat. No injury.

**Safety Equipment in Use -** No

**Job Briefing Conducted -** Yes

**Corrective Action Taken**

Policy was followed by crew resulting in no injuries. Raised awareness of these defective cut-outs.

**Possible Corrective Action**

N/A

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