

FATAL ALERT

May 24, 2005

On May 24, 2005 an apprentice lineman was fatally injured (electrocuted) when he made contact with an energized center phase wire on an electric power pole. The employee fell approximately 30 feet to the ground. At the time of the accident, the employee was standing in between the lower take off arm and the upper top cross arm of the power pole. The employee apparently slipped and grabbed the center phase wire and his leg either made contact or the electricity arced across from his foot to the tie ins to the guy wires on the pole. The employee received 14,400 volts and 791 Amps of electricity that killed him instantaneously.

Significant Factors:

- Employee went above lower take off arm on power pole, which was against two journeymen's directions. This put him in close proximity to high voltage power lines.
- Employee was not wearing proper personal protective equipment for being in close proximity to high voltage power lines.
- Employee did not have his fall protection hooked up at the time of the accident.
- Journeyman working on the ground and supervising the deceased did not keep in constant communication and observe the apprentice lineman throughout the process to ensure he was following directions (did not climb above the lower take off arm as told by journeymen).

Recommendations:

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this fatal mishap.
- Brief/retrain all employees on pole procedures, especially not climbing above the lower take off arm when upper top cross arm has energized power lines unless wearing proper protective clothing and directed by journeyman or management.
- Brief employees on all hazards identified during the investigation.
- Ensure all employees follow the requirements in Wyoming's Rules & Regulations for Subpart R – 1910.269, Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution and the American Public Power Association, Safety Manual, most current edition.