

20. Struck by guy-wire cable

A **29-year-old** foreman/lineman was killed when he was struck by the flying end of a steel cable wire and thrown from the bucket truck from which he was working. The victim, another lineman and a flagger were working to install overhead guy-wire cables on utility poles after fiber-optic cable had been installed. After performing the operations many times during the day, they began working on the last project of the day at an intersection of two streets. The lineman and the victim laid out a section of the steel cable across the intersection while the flagger stopped traffic. The victim used the bucket to boom up and attach one end of the cable to a utility pole. The victim boomed down and the lineman drove the bucket truck over the cable lying in the intersection in order to connect the other end of the cable to a utility pole across the adjacent street. The foreman then noticed that he had connected the cable to the wrong side of the fiber-optic cable already attached to the first pole so he instructed the flagger to leave his flagging job and come across the street and cut the other end of the cable from the reel. The cable was left lying across the street for traffic to drive over and no flagger was in the intersection to warn traffic. After the end of the cable was cut from the reel, the lineman handed the cable to the victim and the victim boomed up about 20 feet. He then pulled the cable up in order to get it over the fiber-optic cable to attach it to this second pole. When the victim pulled on the cable, it came off the ground. At that time a pick-up truck came through the intersection and, the driver not seeing the cable and no flagger being present, drove over the steel cable. The cable became caught on the rear bumper of the pick-up and rapidly accelerated into the air and struck the victim in the bucket and knocked him out of the bucket. The other lineman was also struck several times by the cable, but did not sustain severe injuries. Emergency services were called and the victim was transported to a local hospital, but did not survive.

Citations as Originally Issued

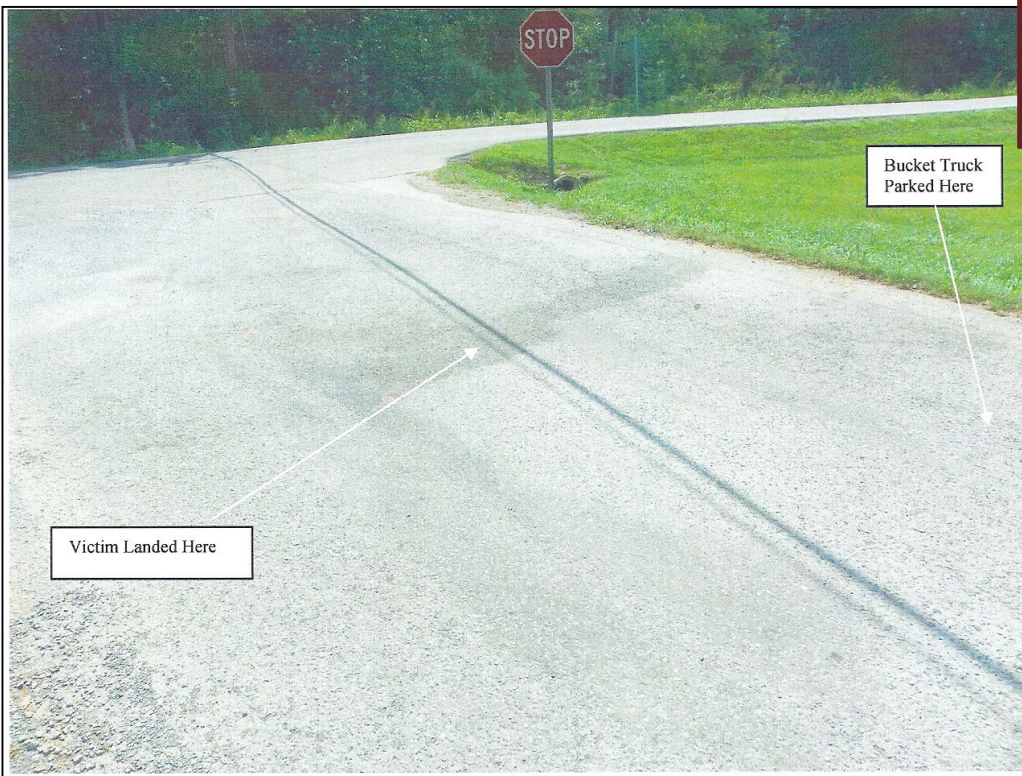
Citation 1

Item 1 1910.268(c)(3)	The employer did not provide first-aid training, including instruction in artificial respiration.
Item 2 1910.268(d)(1)	Before work is begun in the vicinity of vehicular or pedestrian traffic which may endanger employees, warning signs and/or flags or other traffic control devices were not placed conspicuously to alert and channel approaching traffic.
Item 3 1910.268(g)(1)	Safety belts and straps were not provided and the employer did not ensure their use when work was performed at positions more than four feet above ground, on poles, and on towers.

See Photos on Next Page



Cable entangled in pick-up bumper



Intersection where the incident occurred

Victim Landed Here

Bucket Truck Parked Here