

Electrocution – Inspection #1117027

A **42 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was electrocuted while installing underground electrical service to a parking lot light pole. The electrical contractor was hired to install emergency generators for a warehouse. During the construction of the concrete pads for the generators, a conduit supplying power to one of the parking lot lighting fixtures was damaged. The victim and two co-workers were in the process of running the new conductors from the light fixture pole to a 277 volt junction box approximately 75 feet away. At some point during the day, one of the co-workers found the victim lying over the junction box in contact with an energized wire. The victim never regained consciousness, and passed away two days later from his injuries. The county medical examiner's report confirmed the cause of death was low voltage electrocution. During the investigation, it was determined the junction box originated in a breaker panel, then went through a photo cell that turned on the lights at dark, and off during daylight hours. The photo cell on this circuit controlled many light fixtures in the parking lot besides the one the victim and crew were working on. After the incident a witness stated that the parking lot lights were on. The company had a "No Hot Policy" therefore, the crew should have disconnected the line to the junction box at the breaker panel, and the photo cell should not have been relied upon for keeping the line de-energized.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1

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| 29 CFR 1926.416(a)(1) | An employee was permitted to work in such proximity to any part of an electric power circuit that the employee could contact the electric power circuit in the course of work, while the employee was not protected against electric shock by de-energizing the circuit and grounding it or by guarding it effectively by insulation or other means. In that employees worked in a junction box for the parking lot lighting system without assuring that the 277 volt circuit had been de-energized and locked out at its source. |
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Photo 1 of 1 – Photo of junction box where victim was found.