

18 electrocution ---Inspection # 1306972 Red Stag Contractors

A 53 year old male was electrocuted as he leaned against a boom truck that had its boom contacting a 14.4Kv energized power line. Red Stag Contractors had been contracted to install telecommunication poles and telecommunication cables in a rural residential area. The victim was part of a three man crew. The crew uses a boom truck to perform their work. In addition to the boom truck, the crew uses a pole trailer to transport the utility poles to where they will be installed. On the day of the incident the crew had set utility poles in the ground. After setting the poles in the ground the crew dropped the pole trailer at an empty lot. The crew proceeded to set anchors for the recently installed poles. The trailer was left at the vacant lot as it was difficult to access some of the poles with the pole trailer hitched to the truck. After setting the pole anchors the crew returned to the vacant lot to obtain the trailer. The intent was to hitch the trailer to the truck, return it to a nearby staging area that the company was using, and then for everyone to go home for the day.

The foreman drove the boom truck to the lot and backed it up towards the trailer. All three crew members exited the truck. According to witnesses, the victim stated that the truck was too close to the overhead power line to operate the boom so the foreman instructed him to pull the truck up to get the boom truck away from the power line. After pulling the truck up, all three crew members evaluated the scene and agreed that the truck was far enough away from the powerline to operate the boom safely. The boom on the truck was being used to pick up the tongue of the pole trailer and attach it to the pintle hitch on the truck. The trailer was not equipped with a jack.

According to witnesses, the victim was standing towards the rear of the truck on the driver's side and was leaning against the truck. It was determined that the boom has a reach of 29.7 feet in the fully upright position when not extended and made contact with the 14.4Kv overhead power line during the process of lifting the tongue of the trailer. None of the employees were spotting the line for the boom operator.

It was established that there was no work rule in place to maintain a minimum distance from energized electrical lines when operating the boom truck. Additionally, it was determined that there was not clear communication amongst the crew in regards to the ground men spotting the boom for the boom operator.

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.

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Citation 1 Item 1 Type of Violation: Serious \$4000

29 CFR 1910.268(c): The employer did not provide training in the various precautions and safe practices described in this section.

In that the employer did not provide effective training on how to avoid hazards associated with the work that the employees were assigned to perform, such as working near power lines.

Citation 1 Item 2 Type of Violation: Serious \$4000

29 CFR 1910.268(c)(3): Training provided did not include first aid training, including instruction in artificial respiration:

In that there were no first aid trained and certified persons on site. The nearest medical facility, an emergency room, was located 16 miles (approximately 25 minutes) away from the work site. Employees on the site were exposed to electrocution hazards.

Citation 1 Item 3 Type of Violation: Serious \$5400

29 CFR 1910.268(j)(4)(i): This equipment was operated with conductive parts of the equipment closer to exposed energized power lines than the clearances set forth in Table R- 2 of this section.

In that the digger derrick boom was operated closer to the power lines than allocated in Table R- 2, resulting in the digger derrick truck becoming energized and an employee being electrocuted. Table R-2 states that the minimum approach distance when approaching 14,400 volts is 24 inches.

Citation 2 Item 1 Type of Violation: Other-than-Serious \$1500

TD LWD Rule 0800-01-03-.05(1)(a) 1: Within eight (8) hours after the death of any employee as a result of a work related incident the employer did not report the fatality to the TOSHA Division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

In that the employer did not report the death of an employee within 8 hours. The employee passed away at approximately 3:15 p.m. on 4/4/2018. The employer reported the fatality on 4/5/2018 at 8:25 a.m.

Citation 2 Item 2 Type of Violation: Other-than-Serious \$300

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.05(1)(a)2: Within twenty-four (24) hours after the in-patient hospitalization of one or more employees or an employee's amputation or an employee's loss of an eye, as a result of a work-related incident, the employer did not report the in-patient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye to TOSHA.

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In that the amputation of a finger was not reported to TOSHA within 24 hours. The amputation occurred on 2/13/2017. It was discovered that the amputation was never reported to TOSHA during a fatality inspection which was opened on 4/5/2018.

Description : Yellow arrow indicates the boom of the truck. The red arrow indicates the energized power line.



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Description	Red arrows indicate the bum marks where the rear tires of the truck were when the boom was energized. The picture was taken so that the viewer would have been looking at the front of the truck had the truck still been in its original location. The green arrow indicates the power line which energized the boom.
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