A **36 year old male** employee/owner was electrocuted when he lost control of a LadderVator while moving it and made contact with a 14.4 Kv overhead powerline. Two other employees who tried to help were severely injured as well.

This contractor was subcontracted to replace a residential roof. It was determined that the job was approximately 95% complete so the victim and two other employees were starting to clean up the area. There were 3 roofers still on the roof. It was determined that the victim was assisting his employees take down the LadderVator apparatus which is used to hoist shingles to the roof ridge.

The employees were holding the LadderVator at the base and leaning it away from the house toward the power lines in an attempt to pull it sideways to a safe spot and disassemble it; the LadderVator was bolted together. The LadderVator was approximately 40' tall with a 5' extension. The victim and two ground employees lost control of the LadderVator which allowed it to contact the unprotected 14.4kV power line. The power line ran parallel to the street on the utility poles and was 38 feet 5 inches from the ground. The electricity traveled down the metal ladder and created a severe electrical fire that resulted in the victim's death and hospitalization of the two other employees.

It was determined that the employer had not adequately evaluated the work area to determine if employees could make contact with overhead power lines and had not provided any means to protect employees from making contact with the energized overhead power lines.

This employer was not originally cited, as the victim was the owner of the business and considered a sole owner; his wife explained that the business would be shut down. However, during an informal conference with the GC (they were cited also), it was learned that the wife had kept the business in operation, just using a different name—so citations were issued after all.

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.

<u>Citation 1 Item 1</u> Type of Violation: Serious \$1050

29 CFR **1926.50(c)**: A person who has a valid certificate in first-aid training was not available at the worksite to render first-aid:

In that the employer did not ensure that persons with valid certificates in first-aid training were available at the job site where a clinic, hospital, or physician was not available within 3-4 minutes of the job site for treatment of injured employees.

<u>Citation 1 Item 2</u> Type of Violation: Serious \$4000

29 CFR 1926.416(a)(1): Employees were permitted to work in proximity to electric power circuits and were not protected against electric shock by de-energizing and grounding the circuits or effectively guarding the circuits by insulation or other means:

In that the employer did not ensure means were in place to protect employees from electric shock while working in close proximity to the 14.4kV overhead powerline while disassembling a laddervator.

<u>Citation 1 Item 3</u> Type of Violation: Serious \$4000

29 CFR 1926.416(a)(3): Before work began, the employer did not ascertain by inquiry, direct observation, or by instruments whether any part of an energized electric power circuit, exposed or concealed, was so located that the performance of the work could bring any person, tool, or machine into physical or electrical contact with the electric power circuit.

In that the employer did not adequately assess the work area to ensure that equipment used by employees, such as the laddervator, could not make contact with 14.4kV overhead powerlines during the course of work.



Electrocution—Insp # 1638921 Enoc Ely LLC



