

FATAL FACTS



No. 8775-028

Accident Type:	Electrocution
Number of Fatalities	1
Weather Conditions:	Dry, Calm, Warm
Type of Operation:	Transmission Line Assembly
Size of Work Crew:	7
Competent Safety Monitor on Site:	Yes
Safety and Health Program in Effect:	Yes
Was the Worksite Inspected Regularly:	Yes
Training and Education Provided:	Yes
Employees Job Titles:	Apprentice Lineman
Age & Gender:	Male, 24
Experience at this Type of Work:	8 months
Time on Project:	2 days



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A utility pole had been rejected by an engineer, so the employer was erecting a replacement structure near the rejected pole. While lifting the employee in a lift bucket, the employee came in contact with a live wire. The employee died 15 days later from delayed medical complications due to electrocution. A second employee was hospitalized for treatment of burns to fingers and chest.

INSPECTION RESULTS

The investigation resulted in the issuance of two serious citations. The first citation was for permitting employees to approach a conductive object without an approved insulating handle – 29 CFR 1926.950(c)(1). The second citation was for not grounding aerial lift trucks when working near energized lines – 29 CFR 1926.952(b)(2).

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations made by OHSB were to ground aerial lift trucks when working near energized lines and to always provide proper clearance from energized lines.