

Case 317. 26-year-old carpenter was electrocuted when the 20-foot aluminum extension ladder he was using to lift low hanging cable lines contacted an energized 7,600 KV power line.

A 26-year-old male carpenter was electrocuted when the 20-foot aluminum extension ladder he was using to lift low hanging cable lines contacted an energized 7,600 KV power line. The decedent was a member of a 6-person work crew, which included the two co-owners of the company. Co-owners 1 and 2 were concerned that the material truck delivering supplies to the work site would not pass under low hanging cable wires. These cable wires were 11.5 feet above the ground. The employee and the two co-owners each took a separate position to guide the truck under the cable wires. Co-owner 1 guided the truck from the front while Co-owner 2 stood on the bed of the truck. The decedent stood to one side of the truck and used a 20-foot aluminum extension ladder to lift the low hanging cable wires as the material truck passed under them. The decedent lifted the cable wires up and into an overhead 7,600 KV power line, which was 18.5 feet above from the ground and directly over the cable wires. After the material truck had passed under the wires, the material truck driver and the co-owners noticed that the decedent was lying on the ground. The truck driver indicated to the responding police that the aluminum ladder the decedent was using was still hanging from energized line. Emergency response was called and the decedent was transported to a local hospital where he was declared dead. The decedent had been employed by the company for three weeks.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious and Regulatory citations at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: GENERAL RULES, PART 1

- Rule 114(1):
An accident prevention program was not developed, maintained, and coordinated with employees.

Employees are working on the work site without an accident prevention program. Employees are performing carpentry and roofing work.

- Rule 132(3):
A person who has a valid certificate in first aid training was not present at the worksite to render first aid.

No employee on the work site has a valid first aid certificate to render first aid. Employees are performing carpentry and roofing work.

SERIOUS: FIXED AND PORTABLE LADDERS – PART 11

- Rule 112(1):

A training program was not provided for each employee who used a ladder. The program did not enable each employee to recognize hazards related to the ladder and did not train each employee in the procedures to be followed to minimize these hazards.

No ladder training or instruction program provided to employees who are required to use ladders. Employees were performing carpentry and roofing work.

- Rule 1124(7):

A metal ladder was used or moved within the minimum of 20 feet between power transmission or distribution lines.

An employee used a metal ladder within the minimum distance (20 feet) to a 7,600 KV power line. Employees were performing carpentry and roofing work.

REGULATORY: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, PART OSH 11, RULE 1139(1):

An oral report of a work-related incident resulting in a fatality or the inpatient hospitalization of three or more employees was not made within eight hours after the occurrence to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, State Secondary Complex, 7150 Harris Drive, P.O. Box 30644, Lansing, MI 48909, phone 1-800-858-0397.

The employer did not contact the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration after a fatality had occurred. Employees were performing carpentry and roofing work.