

Case 532. 19-year-old male farm hand guiding steel trusses for a hoop barn was electrocuted when a telehandler and the trusses contacted an energized 7,000-volt overhead power line.

A 19-year-old male farm hand guiding steel trusses for a hoop barn was electrocuted when a telehandler and the trusses contacted an energized 7,000-volt overhead power line. In 2018, the property owner had placed approximately 4 feet 6 inches of fill dirt in the area, reducing the height of the line from 21 feet 8 inches above the ground to 17 feet 2 inches. Two hoop barns composed of concrete walls and steel arched trusses placed on top of the concrete had been constructed; the incident occurred during construction of the third barn. A rented rough terrain forklift truck was used to transport the steel trusses to the hoop barn under construction. The energized overhead line, train tracks, and a livestock path were on the south side of the property; at this point the construction site narrowed. It was a humid day and wind gusts were recorded at 24 mph. Puddles were present on the travel path. The telehandler operator and the decedent approached the third barn from the south with the fourth steel truss secured to the telehandler with a nylon sling; the sling carried the 30-foot by 60-foot steel truss at the top of its "V". The decedent was on the ground guiding the truss by hand (without a tag line) when the telehandler and steel truss contacted the energized 7,000-volt powerline. The decedent was fatally electrocuted.

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

Serious: CS Part 1 General Rules

- 408.40114(1): An employer shall develop, maintain, and coordinate with employees an accident prevention program, a copy of which shall be available at the worksite.

No accident prevention program was developed by employer.

Instance A) Moving steel trusses with the presence of electrical hazards.

Instance B) Work activities related to the construction of new structures.

- 408.40115(4): Employees not specifically covered by Construction Safety Standard Part 16 "Power Transmission and Distribution," Construction Safety Standard Part 17 "Electrical Installations," or Construction Safety Standard Part 30 "Telecommunications," as referenced in R 408.40105, shall not be allowed by the employer to work or be closer to energized electrical line, gear, or equipment exposed to contact than the minimum clearance prescribed in table 1.

An employee operating a GEHL RS8-44 Telehandler was moving steel trusses around the jobsite. The Telehandler was moving the steel truss which became energized by an overhead electric line.

Serious: 408.42221: CS Part 22 Signals, Signs, Tags, and Barricades: An employer shall provide, install, and maintain signals, signs, barricades, and tags, as prescribed by this part, where an employee might be, or would likely be, injured if not alerted to the hazard.

The employer did not provide, install, and maintain signals, signs, barricades and tags when employees were in hazard of striking overhead electrical lines. An employee was operating a GEHL RS8-44 Telehandler while moving steel trusses and another employee was guiding the trusses, to work in an area by energized overhead electric lines.

Serious: 1910.178(6): CS Part 13 Mobile Equipment, REF 408.41301: The employers shall certify that each operator has been trained and evaluated as required by this paragraph (1). The certification shall include the name of the operator, the date of the training, the date of the evaluation, and the identity of the person(s) performing the training or evaluation.

Instance A) Employee operating a GEHL RS8-44 Telehandler at the jobsite moving steel trusses around the jobsite without certification.

Instance B) Employees operating a JLG Sky Power 400S without certification.

Other-than-Serious: 408.22139(1): ADM Part 11 recording & reporting of occupational injuries & illnesses: Within 8 hours after the death of any employee from a work-related incident, you must report the fatality by telephone to the MIOSHA toll-free central telephone number: 1-800-858-0397.

The employer did not report a fatality to MIOSHA within 8 hours.