

Case 512. 62-year-old journeyman electrician died when a 40-gang meter bank fell away from a wall and landed on him.

A 62-year-old male journeyman electrician died when a 40-gang meter bank and disconnect switch weighing approximately 700 pounds fell away from a wall and landed on top of him. The 40-gang meter bank and disconnect switch were installed previously and located in the basement of an apartment building. The date of installation and the company which installed the banks/switch were unknown. The firm (Firm 1) for whom the decedent worked had been subcontracted to pull new service cables from the building's housing units to the meter banks. Firm 1 found that the main switch was not located properly and had to be moved and relocated to the middle of 10 (4) stacks of meter banks. It was hypothesized that the decedent was working inside the panels, removing the connections between the panels so they could be removed one at a time a few days later. While working on this task, all 10 of the meter banks and the main switch fell from the wall and landed on the decedent. A coworker found the decedent under the meter bank/disconnect switch. The coworker was unable to lift the bank and called emergency responders. When emergency responders arrived, the bank was lifted off the decedent, who was declared dead at the scene. After the incident, it was found that the securement for the meter banks/main disconnect switch were not properly fastened to the wall with a mounting channel.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citation to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

Serious: 408.40114(2)(b): CS Part 1 General Rules

An accident prevention program shall, at a minimum, provide for all of the following:

- (a) Instruction to each employee regarding the operating procedures, hazards, and safeguards of tools and equipment when necessary to perform the job.
- (b) Inspections of the construction site, tools, materials, and equipment to assure that unsafe conditions which could create a hazard are eliminated.
- (c) Instruction to each employee in the recognition and avoidance of hazards and the regulations applicable to his or her work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.
- (d) Instruction to each employee who is required to handle or use known poisons, toxic materials, caustics, and other harmful substances regarding all of the following:
 - i. The potential hazards.
 - ii. Safe handling.
 - iii. Use.
 - iv. Personal hygiene.
 - v. Protective measures.
 - vi. Applicable first aid procedures to be used in the event of injury.
- (e) Instruction to each employee if known harmful plants, reptiles, animals, or insects are present regarding all of the following:
 - i. The potential hazards.
 - ii. How to avoid injury.
 - iii. Applicable first aid procedures to be used in the event of injury.
- (f) Instruction to each employee who is required to enter a confined space regarding all of the following:
 - i. The hazards involved.
 - ii. The necessary precautions to be taken.

- iii. The use of required personal protective equipment.
 - iv. Emergency equipment.
 - v. The procedures to be followed if an emergency occurs.
- (g) Instruction in the steps or procedures to be followed in case of an injury or accident or other emergency.

Inspections of the jobsite did not recognize or eliminate an unsafe condition where an employee was exposed to a struck by hazard in the basement electrical room.

Serious: 1926.100(a) CS Part 6 Personal Protective Equipment: Employees working in areas where there is a possible danger of head injury from impact, or from falling or flying objects, or from electrical shock and burns, shall be protected by protective helmets.

An employee engaged in electrical activities was exposed to head injuries when working on a large meter bank and disconnect switch. The employee was not wearing head protection.