

**Case 51. 22-year-old male truck driver was electrocuted while standing on the ground when his truck's raised dump box contacted an energized 69,000-volt overhead power line.**

On August 8, 2003, 22-year-old male truck driver was electrocuted while standing on the ground when his truck's raised dump box contacted an energized 69,000-volt overhead power line. The victim was working with three other coworkers constructing a parking lot. The victim was the driver of a dump truck that was stuck in the lot under the energized 69,000-volt overhead line. With one coworker acting as a "spotter", the victim stood outside of the dump truck and raised the bed to dump some of the gravel to help lighten the load so he could be pulled out. The power line was approximately 23 feet high. With the help of his spotter, he partially dumped the load and lowered the box. One of his coworkers went to get a grader that was going to be used to pull the victim's truck. Another coworker went to get a chain to attach the grader to the dump truck. While these two individuals were going to their respective positions, without the use of a spotter, the victim apparently decided to empty the truck bed. He raised the dump box while standing on the ground, maintaining contact with the truck. The dump box contacted the energized overhead power line. The victim became a path to ground and was electrocuted. The grader operator, while backing up his vehicle saw sparks coming from the power line to the victim's truck.

MIOSHA issued the following "Serious" citations to the employer:

1. The company safety program and related training does not meet the requirements of the Construction Safety Standard, Part 1. Employees working on site of a new parking lot have insufficient instruction and training in regard to: operating procedures for equipment operating under 69,000 volt power line, inspection of the construction site to assure that equipment hazards are laminated, instruction of each employee in the recognition and avoidance of hazards, and instruction to employees in the steps or procedures to be followed in case of an injury, accident or other emergency. (General Rules, Part 1, Rule R408.40114(2))
2. Employees were not specifically covered by Part 16. Power Transmission and Distribution, Part 17 Electrical Installations, or Part 30. Telecommunications of the Construction Safety Standard Commission Standards, being R408.41601 et seq., R408.41701 et seq., and R408.43001 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code. Employee was exposed to 69,000 volts while elevating the dump truck box and did not maintain the minimum clearance required by Construction Safety Standard, Part 1. Overhead line was 23-feet 1-inch above the ground, while the trailer is approximately 10-feet 10-inches above ground before elevating. Employer allowed employees to work or be closer to energized electrical lines, gear, or equipment exposed to contact than the minimum clearance prescribed in Table 1. (General Rules, Part 1, Rule 115(4))
3. There was not an employee designated to observe the clearance and give timely warning if it is difficult for the operator to maintain the prescribed clearance by visual means. (Handling and Storage of Materials, Part 8, Rule R408.408822(3))