

Case 72. 41-year-old self-employed male was electrocuted when he touched a truck door that was energized due to the truck's crane contacting an energized 7600-volt overhead powerline.

On October 27, 2004, a 41-year-old self-employed male was electrocuted when he contacted the cab of his truck, which became energized with 7600 volts as a result of the boom on the truck contacting an overhead power line. The decedent owned a flatbed truck with a 3-section boom crane on the bed. The boom attachment was directly outside and behind the cab. The crane boom was 30-40 feet tall when fully extended. The scrap yard had truck ruts from other vehicle's movement and these ruts had standing water in them. He parked the truck under an energized 7600-volt electric line crossing from the main electric feed line. He was aware of the electric line above his truck. It was twilight. After the victim and his helper had off-loaded both heating and cooling units and while he was unhooking the last line and bringing the boom back up, the boom contacted the overhead line. When the crane contacted the line, a fireball came down the boom to the cab of the truck and started a fire. The victim and his coworker were on the wooden bed of the truck when the fireball started down the boom and "hit the ground." When the owner saw the cab on fire, he rushed over, stepped on the door's stepboard and contacted the door. Presumably he thought he could save the truck somehow. The electric shock knocked him away from the truck and his helper pulled him further away and started CPR. Emergency response was called. The victim was transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

MIOSHA reviewed the incident to the point that it was established that the only person injured (victim) was the sole business owner. Since the business no longer existed with any employees or owners after the incident, MIOSHA did not issue any citations.