

Case 156. 35-year-old owner of a tree trimming service was electrocuted while cutting a large branch from a tree.

A 35-year-old owner of a tree trimming service was electrocuted while cutting a large branch from a tree. The incident was witnessed by two of his employees who were watching from the ground. When the decedent cut the top limb of the tree, it fell onto a nearby 7200-volt primary noninsulated powerline. The limb slipped back and struck the decedent in the stomach. He was secured in the tree with a harness and a belt for protection from a fall. The workers tried to pull him away from the limb with ropes they had been using to guide limbs to the ground but were unsuccessful. The electrical current carried from the powerline through the branch, through the decedent, through the tree and into the ground. The workers notified the homeowner who called 911. Fire department personnel lowered him to the ground and determined he was deceased at the site. He was transported to a local hospital where he was formally pronounced dead.

No citations were issued by MIOSHA.