

Case 198. 43-year-old concrete poured wall construction company owner was electrocuted while attempting to extinguish his truck's tire fire caused by an energized 7,200-volt power line lying on the truck.

A 43-year-old male concrete poured wall construction company owner was electrocuted while attempting to extinguish his truck's tire fire caused by an energized 7,200-volt power line lying on the truck. The truck's 18-foot long boom was improperly stowed and secured. The decedent, as he was driving from a construction site, entered the road from a dirt driveway. The truck cab was in the road when the boom snagged a cable TV line, causing the power pole carrying a 7,200-volt voltage line to snap. The electrical line came down on the truck behind the truck's crane. The decedent backed up the truck to disentangle the boom from the cable line. The electric current from the high voltage line blew out two truck tires and initiated a fire. The decedent, apparently unaware that the boom was still in contact with the overhead line, jumped out of the cab on the driver's side with a fire extinguisher. The driver's side had a dry gravel surface. He ran with the fire extinguisher in hand to the passenger side, which had wet, dewy grass. At some point, the decedent was electrocuted. It is unknown whether the decedent had direct contact with the energized truck or whether he came into contact with the voltage gradient caused by downed line. The fire extinguisher was found lying next to him on the grass.

At the conclusion of its investigation, MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious and Other-than-Serious citations:

SERIOUS:

RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, PART OSH 11, RULE 1139(1).

An oral report of a work-related incident resulting in a fatality or the inpatient hospitalization of three or more employees was not made within eight hours after the occurrence to MIOSHA.

SERIOUS:

GENERAL RULES, PART 1, RULE 114(1).

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

Accident Prevention Program Plan not available at work site and not coordinated with employees. Employees not trained to recognize potential safety hazards associated with employer's work activities, such as, but not limited to, excavation safety, equipment and electrical hazards.

SERIOUS:

LIFTING AND DIGGING EQUIPMENT, PART 10, RULE 1006(a).

An employer shall comply with the manufacturer's specifications and limitations applicable to the operation of cranes, derricks, and excavation equipment. If a manufacturer's specifications are not available, then the limitations assigned to

the equipment shall be based on the determination of a qualified engineer who is competent in the field of equipment limitations, and the determination shall be appropriately documented and recorded. Attachments that are used with cranes or derricks shall not exceed the capacity, rating, or scope recommended by the manufacturer.

Manufacturer's operation specifications not followed for Palfinger PK 24001 truck-mounted crane. Improper storage of lift mechanism resulted in contact of energized 7,200-volt power line.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS:

LIFTING AND DIGGING EQUIPMENT, PART 10, RULE 1006a(8).

The manual provided by the crane manufacturer shall be readily accessible for the crane operator's reference at the work site.

No operation manual available on site for Palfinger PK 24001 truck-mounted crane. Employees unable to access manual to verify potential unsafe conditions and document them.

LIFTING AND DIGGING EQUIPMENT, PART 10, RULE 1012a(1)

A thorough, annual inspection of a crane, derrick or excavation equipment shall be made by a qualified person. The employer shall maintain, on the jobsite, a copy of the records of the date and results of the latest inspection for each piece of equipment.

No annual inspection report for the Palfinger PK 24001 truck-mounted crane. Employees unable to access report to verify potential unsafe conditions and document them.