

Case 228. 28-year-old maintenance journeyman apprentice was electrocuted after contacting 40,000-volt energized electrical lines.

A 28-year-old male maintenance journeyman apprentice was electrocuted after contacting 40,000-volt energized electrical lines. The decedent was performing substation maintenance to remove and repair electrical cables. On the day of the incident, neither a job briefing nor a “job protection” walkthrough was conducted by the substitute substation operator. The lines were not de-energized and locked out. The decedent placed a six foot aluminum ladder on gravel to gain access to the lines, which were approximately 10 to 12 feet above ground. The incident was unwitnessed. Three coworkers were working on the opposite side of a nearby breaker and could not see the decedent. It is unknown what event occurred prior to the decedent contacting the energized lines. The three coworkers heard a “boom” and ran to the location. They found the decedent on the ground. His work tools were lying next to him and his hard hat was located approximately 10 feet from his body. The ladder had tipped and fallen to the ground. Coworkers called for emergency response. Emergency response transported him to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead.

MIOSHA General Industry Health and Safety Division issued the following Serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation:

SERIOUS: ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION, PART 86

- **RULE 269:** The employer shall ensure that the employee in charge conducts a job briefing with employees involved before they start each job. The briefing shall cover at least the following subjects: hazards associated with the job, work procedures involved, special precautions, energy source controls, and personal protection equipment requirements.

No job briefings, employer had power to lines that did not need power to it for the work being performed and was not briefed on the safety zone around the live parts, power transformer.

- **RULE 269(1)(2):** Minimum approach distances. The employer shall ensure that no employee approaches or takes any conductive object closer to exposed energized parts that set forth in Table R-6 through R-10.
- **RULE 269(M)(1):** Application. Paragraph (m) of this section applies to the de-energizing of transmission and distribution lines and equipment for the purpose of protecting employees. Control of hazardous energy sources used in the generation of electric energy is covered in paragraph (d) of this section. Conductors and parts of electric equipment

that have been de-energized under procedures other than those required by paragraph (d) or (m) of this section, as applicable shall be treated as energized.

Not enforcing lockout, power transformers.