

**Case 245. 46-year-old male mechanic was electrocuted while greasing a turret bearing on a 1997 Osh Kosh pumper truck when the truck's raised extendable conveyor system, which is operated by a wireless remote, came in contact with a live, 4,800 volt power line.**

A 46-year-old male mechanic was electrocuted while greasing a turret bearing on a 1997 Osh Kosh pumper truck when the truck's raised extendable conveyor system, which is operated by a wireless remote, came in contact with a live, 4,800 volt power line. There were two deactivated power lines above the live power line involved in the incident. The power lines run on an angle from the building; the angle from the south is closer to the building than from the north of the building. The power company, after the incident measured the height of the incident power line above the ground; this line ranged from 30 feet 7 inches to 30 feet 10 inches above the ground. The decedent's coworker drove the pumper truck, with the extendable conveyor lying on the cab, to the incident site so it could be power washed and the turret bearing could be greased. He parked the truck so it was pointing north, approximately 12 feet away and parallel to the building and downed the outriggers. The coworker lifted the conveyor up off the cab and ran it clockwise and under the power lines. After going under the power lines he raised the end of the conveyor into the air so it could be moved over the building. The conveyor could be extended 30 to 80 feet. It is unknown exactly how far he extended the conveyor. He left the truck and conveyor in this position and found the decedent who was to grease the turret bearing. The decedent hooked up a portable 35-gallon pneumatic grease gun that had a 25-foot-long steel braided hose. The decedent climbed onto the vehicle and stood on the driver's side of the truck; this placed him approximately 50 inches above the ground. His coworker stood on the ground on the passenger side of the truck. As the coworker moved the conveyor up and over the building, the decedent greased the bearing. The coworker moved the conveyor under the live power line and then up and back to the starting position over the building to enable the decedent to grease all sides of the bearing. This entire activity was repeated a second time. The coworker moved the conveyor to and under the power line for a third time. As he was moving the conveyor back to the building, the conveyor contacted the live, 4,800-volt power line. The coworker saw the decedent fall from the truck. He ran to the decedent, who was on his back on the ground, and told him to lie still and he would get help. The coworker summoned help from other employees and emergency response was called. CPR was performed by his coworkers. Emergency response was called and the decedent was transported to a local hospital. He died several days later. MIOSHA observed electrical burn marks on the hose to the grease gun and on the cement. A tire on the driver's side was also marked from starting to burn. The power company noted a four-foot arc mark on the incident power line.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious and Other-than-Serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: MICHIGAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT, ACT 154, P.A. 1974, AS AMENDED, SECTION 11(a)

The employer did not furnish to each employee, employment and a place of employment, which was free from recognized hazards that were causing or were likely to cause death or serious physical harm to the employee:

Employer allowed inadequately trained employees to service a 1997 Osh Kosh pumper struck serious #76838 equipped with an extendable conveyor system. When employees were servicing the conveyor system they ran it into the 4800-volt overhead power lines approximately 30-feet above the ground, causing electrocution to an employee. Employees not aware of required clearance distances for overhead power lines.

Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct this hazard is not to allow any vehicle, construction equipment be serviced or used in the area with the overhead power lines and train employees on minimum clearance distances for equipment (i.e. Table 1 part 58 Aerial Work Platforms.

**OTHER-THAN-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 the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, State Secondary Complex, 7150 Harris Drive, P.O. Box 30644, Lansing, Michigan 48909, phone 1-800-858-0397.

Employer did not report the fatality within required time frame.

**OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS: FLOOR AND WALL OPENINGS, STAIRWAYS, AND SKYLIGHTS, PART 2, RULE 220(1)**

A portable ladder was used to gain access to another elevation of more than 16 inches.

Inadequate access, climbing up over 16-inches onto fender, 1997 Osh Kosh pumper truck