

Case 246. 54-year-old male lineman was electrocuted when he contacted a 4,800-volt overhead electrical line during the replacement of an antiquated cross arm with associated dowel pins and insulators.

A 54-year-old male lineman was electrocuted when he contacted a 4,800-volt overhead electrical line during the replacement of an antiquated cross arm with associated dowel pins and insulators. The work task consisted of changing the cross arm and removing and installing four phases of primary. The decedent climbed the pole, secured his hand line, put up a rubber drill hole, had the cross arm sent up to him on the hand line, landed the cross arm, lagged the braces, and started transferring conductors. The live line tools were rated but his hand tools were not. The decedent was wearing cargo type pants, tee shirt, hard hat, glasses, gloves, sleeves, leather work boots, belt and hooks. Before completing the connection of the conductors, insulators and cross arms, the decedent removed his insulating and shielding materials (gloves and rubber line hose) from the 4,800-volt conductor wire cable and threw them to the ground while using the unrated hand tools. The decedent's shoulder contacted the electrical current causing his fatal injury. His coworkers initiated CPR as emergency response was called. The decedent was transported to a local hospital where he was declared dead.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation.

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

- **RULE 1910.269(a)(2)(ii)(D)**

Qualified employees shall also be trained and competent in: The proper use of the special precautionary techniques, personal protective equipment, insulating and shielding materials, and insulated tools for working on or near exposed energized parts of electric equipment:

Employee electrocuted while performing job task of connecting conductors, insulators and cross arms and equipment installations, making contact with 4800-volt electrical conductor without insulating shielding materials, utility pole.

- **RULE 1910.269(a)(2)(iii)**

The employer shall determine, through regular supervision and through inspections conducted on at least an annual basis that each employee is complying with the safety-related work practices required by this section:

No annual inspections conducted on employees not wearing approved personal protective equipment, the use of insulating and shield materials are used from the start to the finish of job task when working on energized parts, utility pole.