

Case 264. 46-year-old male data technician/field operations supervisor/safety officer for a telecommunications company was electrocuted when he contacted 277 volts of electricity while relocating television monitors and associated cabling.

46-year-old male data technician/field operations supervisor/safety officer for a telecommunications company was electrocuted when he contacted 277 volts of electricity while relocating television monitors and associated cabling. When the television monitor installation project was concluded, the decedent's employer was informed by the site owner that several television monitors were not in their proper location, thus requiring a relocation of the monitors and their associated cabling. Per company procedure, a licensed electrician was the only individual permitted to work with electrical connections and wiring, and only after the electricity was locked out per the company lockout procedure. There was no licensed electrician on the site. Company policy permitted a licensed electrician to work on live electrical components only after a hot-work permit was granted and all of the personal protective equipment was ready for use. The technicians involved in this incident were allowed, per company policy, to work under the supervision of a licensed electrician and install these monitors and associated equipment as long as it was de-energized. The decedent and his coworker disconnected the wiring from the television monitors and began the relocation process. The decedent was working in a mezzanine area while his coworker worked nearby in a scissors lift. The decedent stood with one foot on a metal desk and his other foot on a 4-foot ladder as he pulled a live, 3-phase, 277-volt metal clad wire to the new location. The metal clad cable insulation had a 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch area where the insulation was damaged, which permitted the decedent to directly contact the live wires. He was not wearing appropriate gloves. Another individual who worked for the site owner was in the mezzanine and the decedent's coworker heard the decedent cry out. Both looked over toward the decedent's location and saw him lying on the floor holding the wire with both hands. The decedent's coworker jumped from the scissor lift to the mezzanine area, yelled for help and began to administer CPR while the second individual called for emergency response. Emergency response arrived and transported the decedent to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead.

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

SERIOUS: ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS, PART 17

- **RULE 1723(1)**

An employer shall assure that an employee does not engage in the installation activities to which this part applies unless the employee is a licensed electrician, or the employee is working with, or under the supervision of, a licensed electrician. A qualified employee is not required to be licensed when working on utility installation or maintenance such as, but not limited to, substations, switch yards, and street or highway lighting.

Employees exposed to an electrocution hazard. No licensed electrician was present while employees were moving/installing a live 277v line for the monitor. Employees installing monitors, using a scissor life, step ladder, and hand tools.

- RULE 1724(2)

Before work begins, a competent person shall ascertain by inquiry, observations, or instruments whether any part of an electric power circuit, exposed or concealed, is so located that, in performance of the work, contact by an employee, tool, or equipment can be made with the circuit.

Employees exposed to an electrocution hazard. Before work begins, a competent person did not ascertain by inquiry, observation, or instruments whether any part of an electric power circuit, exposed or concealed, is so located that, in performance of the work, contact by an employee, tool, or equipment can be made within the circuit. Employees installing monitors, using a scissor lift, step ladder, and hand tools.

- RULE 1724(3)

An employee shall not be permitted to be in proximity to any part of an electric power circuit that he may contact unless the employee is protected against electric shock by de-energizing the circuit and locking out and tagging it, or unless the employee working on an energized circuit is guarded by insulation, insulated tools, or insulating matting or blankets sufficient to protect against the voltage involved.

Employees exposed to an electrocution hazard. Employees working in proximity of a 277 volt electric power circuit without de-energizing the circuit and locking out and tagging it, or properly guarding and protecting against the voltage involved. Employees installing monitors, using a scissor lift, set ladder, and hand tools.

REGULATORY: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, PART 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 death of an employee within eight hours after the death of the employee from a work related incident.