

Case 360. 51-year-old male roll off truck driver was electrocuted when the dump box contacted an energized 7,600-volt overhead power line.

A 51-year-old male roll off truck driver was electrocuted when the dump box contacted an energized 7,600-volt overhead power line. The decedent was in the process of switching out a 40-yard scrap dumpster box for a customer. The customer had two scrap conveyor system areas containing three dumpsters. The decedent's company was contracted to change out the scrap dumpsters. One area did not have overhead wires near the conveyor system and one area (incident site) had overhead wires. There was a sign on the pole warning of high voltage. At the incident location, the decedent had been instructed to pull ahead of the scrap conveyor/scrap dump box approximately 200 yards to unload an empty container. In disregard of these instructions, the decedent positioned his truck next to the scrap conveyor system, which placed the truck under the energized power lines. The decedent stood outside the truck operating the controls to raise the dump bed. As the 45-foot trailer lift boom elevated, the dump bed/box contacted the energized power line. The truck became a path to ground, electrocuting the decedent. The incident was discovered by customer personnel performing a facility walk around of the outside property.

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

SERIOUS: ELECTRICAL SAFETY-RELATED WORK PRACTICES, PART 40:

- 408.14002(3): Employees who are in occupations that are listed in Table 1 face such a risk of electric shock and are required to be trained. Other employees who also may reasonably be expected to face a comparable risk of injury due to electrical shock or other electrical hazards shall also be trained.

An employee was not trained in safety-related work practices, including maintaining a safe distance from energized overhead power lines with conductive metal roll-off dumpster at the customer location.

- 408.14005(5): When an unqualified person is working on the ground in the vicinity of overhead lines, the person shall not bring any conductive object closer to unguarded, energized overhead lines than the distances specified in sub-rule (4) of this rule.

The employee raised the boom on the truck into the 7,600-volt overhead power lines at the customer location.

- 408.14005(8): Any vehicle or mechanical equipment that is capable of having parts of its structure elevated near energized overhead lines shall be operated so that a clearance of 10 ft. (305 cm) is maintained. If the voltage is more than 50kV, the clearance shall be increased 4 in. (10cm) for every 10kV over that voltage.

An employee operating a semi-truck and trailer with an elevated 45-foot boom did not maintain adequate distance from 7,600 volt energized overhead power lines. The employee came in contact with 7,600 volt energized overhead power lines with boom on the truck at customer location.