

Lineman Electrical Contact
Grant Co. PUD
Accident Report
January 22, 2017

Reported by
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Local 77

On Saturday, January 22, 2017, at approximately 9:30 pm a Grant County employee made an electrical contact while trying to secure a floating energized distribution line. The four man line crew consisted of all journeyman linemen, a two man bucket truck, one man service bucket truck, and pickup truck.

A trouble report from Grant dispatch was created for a street light sparking. Two linemen responded to trouble report and found the lower distribution line floating in a tree. The pole construction was a highline pole with distribution underbuild (336 wire) small construction. Pole to the south was also a highline pole with an 8 foot wood arm for the distribution. Pole to the north was identical construction to the pole with floating phase. Lineman then called dispatch to report problem and have two more called out to create a crew. Also, a hot line hold was issued for the acting foreman. At 9:15 pm two linemen had arrived to assist and take care of the issue. A job brief was conducted, also discussed in job brief was that the trucks would be set up back to back. Two linemen (A & B), would work out of the two man bucket truck which was facing north, and one lineman (C) would be in the one man service truck facing south. The other lineman (D) would be the safety watch from the ground and acting foreman.

Lineman A and B flew up to change out old twiggy arm and glass where the phase had fallen from. Once things were finished, lineman C was to get underneath the phase with a pig tail stick and bucket to fly phase closer to the twiggy arm and glass. Lineman A and B would then secure and take the phase up the rest of the way (Lineman C would only be able to fly the wire so far up due to bucket/boom being under communication wires.) Lineman C flew wire to the other lineman A and B as far as he could and stopped a couple feet from the glass. Lineman A and B then secured wire with two pigtail sticks. Then a three way discussion took place that they needed to take remaining old wrap lock tie off before placing onto glass. Lineman A and B both removed sticks from the wire to grab a ring stick to get wrap lock off. At that time, lineman C shifted and began losing control of wire due to weight and some side strain. The weight and strain was enough to pull hot stick away from lineman C in the bucket and stick was pinned to the bucket floor. Lineman C was now straddling the hot stick. It brushed the back of the bucket and lifted him out of the bucket, ejecting him out, flipping forward. Lineman C was now dangling from his harness between the pole and tree. Lineman D (foreman) who was on the ground immediately jumped onto service truck to run lower controls. Lineman D was able to maneuver him clear of lines and bring him to a safe place where linemen A and B could come underneath him and place him in their bucket. Lineman C was conscious and rescued to the ground with no serious injuries. Crew members mentioned that he did come in contact with energized phase. Lineman C was evaluated and taken to hospital for observation and was released later that night.



