

On Thursday May 31<sup>st</sup> at approximately 1:45 pm

Avista line crew foreman Bob Smith in Othello, WA was fatally injured in a catastrophic boom failure, the victim was helping perform an egg drop demonstration for the Hiawatha Elementary School. In Othello Washington, he was elevated in the bucket truck at approximately 30' above the asphalt, with an elementary teacher with him. The turret on the truck which supports the boom failed collapsing both sections. The bucket struck the ground on the asphalt. The victim was treated at the scene, and transported to Othello Community Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival, the teacher was also injured and hospitalized, her injuries were not life threatening. The vehicle was an International Truck with a Versalift VST 6000 boom. An inspection of the lower turret found that nine of the twenty bolts extending through the pedestal plate into the rotation bearing at the rear of the pedestal were missing, three of the bolts were found in the pedestal base, the other six bolts were not found at the scene. The remaining eleven bolts were broken in place. There is an ongoing investigation by Washington State L&I, Avista Utilities, the leasing firm, and the boom manufacturer. Avista will begin daily inspections of boom equipment until further notice. Photos enclosed.

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