

Yesterday, Tuesday 9/2/2008, at approximately 11:00 AM a Henkels & McCoy crew from Local 125 was working at S.E. Gloucester just off of S.E. Portland Ave. in Gladstone. Their job was to change out a three phase primary alley arm. They had their tail board and discussed the procedure they were going to use to change the arm. Journeyman Lineman 1 would be in the bucket. Journeyman Lineman II, would assist on the pole. Journeyman Lineman/Foreman, would be the safety watch on the ground. They disconnected the transformer and removed the secondaries to eliminate any possibility of backfeed. The outside phases, A & C phase, were then covered with two line guards each, untied and spread out. On B phase, the lineman in the bucket, was holding the phase on the insulator with a pig tail stick from above the wire. Journeyman Line II proceeded to untie the phase from off the pole. At this point we speculate that Journeyman Lineman II brought the tie around and either contacted the alley arm brace or the bolt that holds the brace to the arm. His left forearm was touching the brace and it looks like his left foot was either touching or just above the bolt holding the spinning wire that was also bonded. Journeyman Lineman II received burns on his forearm and exit burns on his heel. He is currently at OSHU Hospital in an induced coma for the next 24 hours. They are concerned about internal damage to his kidneys and other organs. He is breathing on his own and his heart is functioning. The hospital is not releasing any information right now but when I find out anything I will pass it along. Next of Kin have notified and Henkels & McCoy are arranging transportation and lodging for the family. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.