

MASS ELECTRIC

ACCIDENT

FEBRUARY 25, 2008

Investigated and Reported by
Jeff Baker
IBEW Local 77 Accident Investigator

On Monday, February 25, 2008 at approximately 3:30pm there was an accident with a Mass Electric Lineman and Apprentice on the Sound Transit Light Rail project south of Seattle in the Tukwila, Washington area.

There was a rigging failure that led to the Lineman being knocked unconscious and suffering cuts and bruises to the head and neck area. The first step Apprentice was knocked off the platform (see picture #3) which was positioned approximately 25-30 feet in the air (see picture #2). Both men were properly wearing PPE equipment including a harness that arrested the fall when the Apprentice was ejected.

In the type of work being performed at the time of the accident the crew's job was to go up and sag the messenger cable bringing them up to proper tension for installation by using a hoist and a cantilever on an outside radial load curved section of the track. Two of the lines were brought up to about 8,500 lbs and due to the angle of the messenger wire it caused the arm to rack (see picture #1) when the third messenger line was at about 6,800 lbs (see picture #2).

The Lineman positioned the man lift to apply load to the messenger wire approximately 8 inches away from an insulator clamp and arm when the tensioned messenger wire came out of the clamp, it pinched between the boom and separated, causing the chain hoist and cantilever to come loose, impacting the workers, and landing 30 feet away (see picture #2).

The Foreman's quick response to the accident included a 911 call, a bucket rescue and treating the Lineman's lacerations to the neck area. Medic's responded quickly and the employees were transported to Harborview Medical Center for treatment. The Apprentice was treated and released with no injuries and returned to work the next day. The Lineman received multiple stitches for lacerations and will be off work for two to three weeks with pay from the employer.

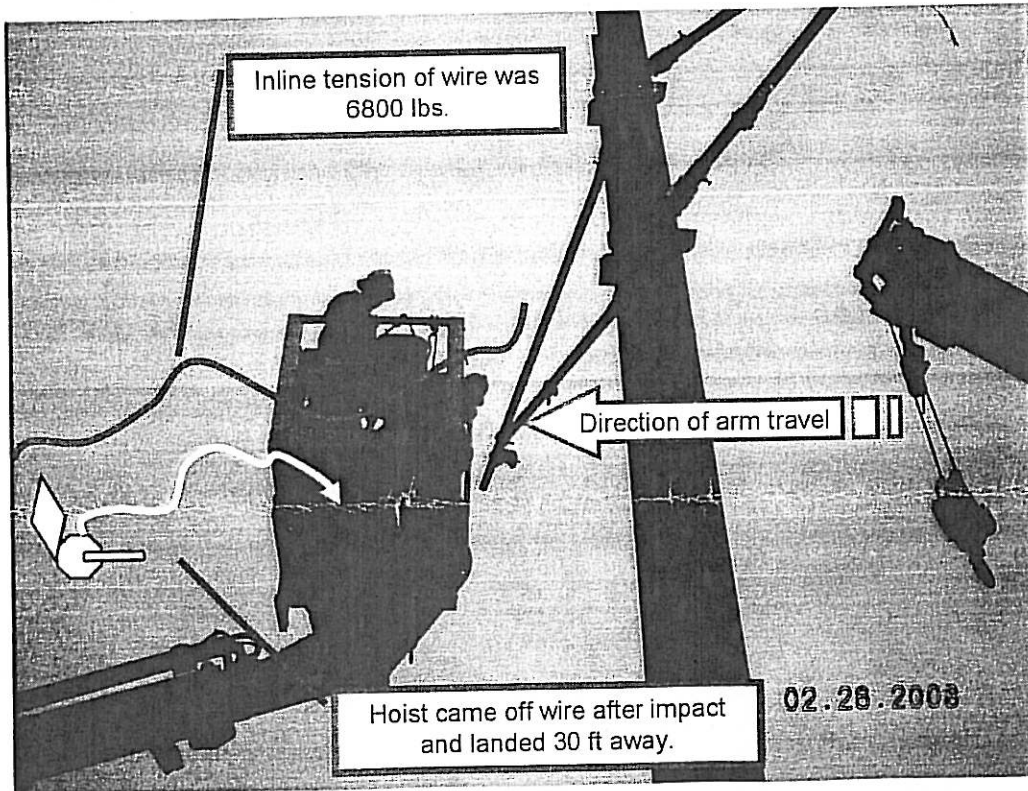
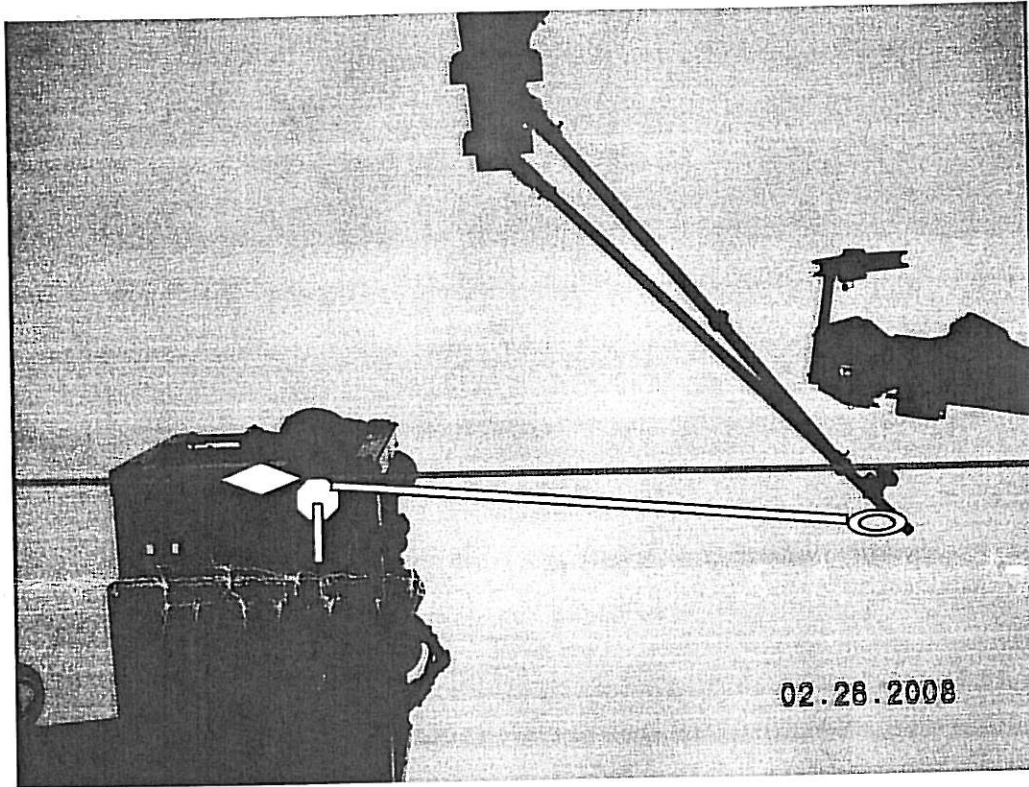
Contributing Factors: Contributing to this incident was the tensioned messenger cable not being secured prior to loosening the insulator clamp and using the man lift as a tool to rack the arm.

Prevention: To prevent this from happening in the future, the company has instituted procedures that require the messenger wire be secured by boom and traveler rigging, an engineered jib for outside radial curved track cantilever adjustment, or the Palfinger hydraulic grabber and that no piece of equipment be used directly in contact with the messenger wire.

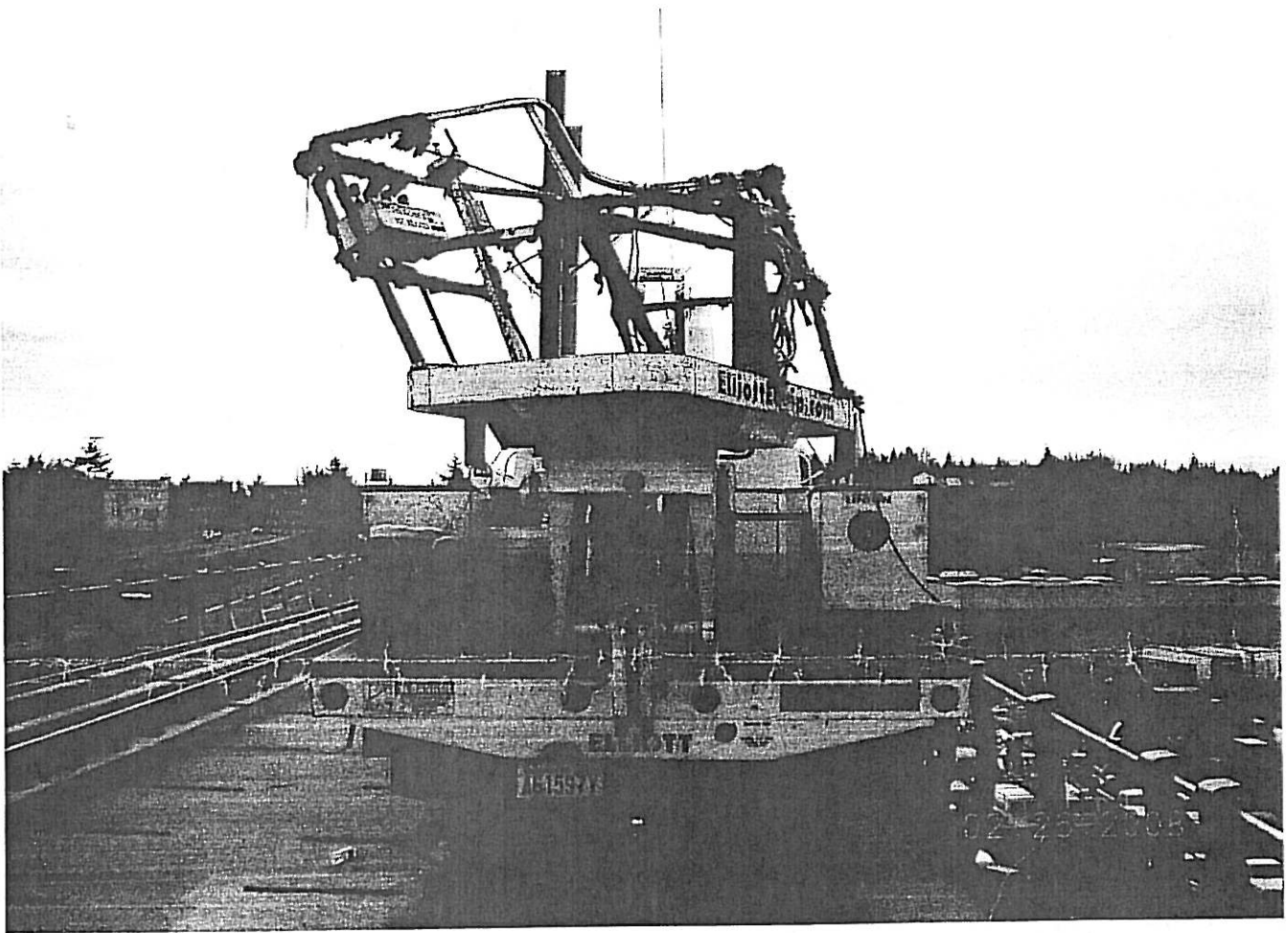
****** Due to the severity of the injuries received; this report was based on findings of Kiewit's Safety Department******

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Reconstruction Photos:



Kiewit Safe



Kiewit Safe