

On August 29, 2007 a Potelco crew had an electrical contact accident in the Renton area. The crew was sent out to change out an S & C PHM-11 3 Ø switch at one location and change out three terms and wreck out a 3Ø steel rack at another location and install three L.I. cutouts.

On the day of the accident two crews consisting of two Foremen, one Lineman and two cold Apprentices were put together due to the extent of the work being performed and the length of the outage. Upon arrival, they had a brief tail board before starting the switching.

The switching had several steps to de-energize the switch cabinet; first both Foremen made a tie between two different substations, then Foreman #1 and Lineman #2 removed three slotted tangs for the second set of orders and thirdly Foreman #2 and Lineman #2 removed another set of slotted tangs. Then the crews met at the switch cabinet for the final steps and had a job briefing. The two Apprentices gathered material for the job and the Lineman and both Foremen finished de-energizing the switch cabinet.

They were able to add another Lineman to the crews and split up the work. Crew #1 was to change out the Padmount switch and do some racking, change 750 MCM terminations and install grounding to bring new switch cabinet up to standards. Crew #2 sent Lineman #2 up in the manlift to the UG feed position, seeing that A & B phase were attached to the OH by jumpers and O phase had been rolled back, he then tested A & B phase jumpers and all three terminations. He rolled back A & B Ø jumpers then touched grounding the terminations. Lineman #2 went and wrecked out 1/0 up feed cables and steel rack, he had noticed 1/0 cables were too short, no extra wires were able to be pulled up the riser. He came down and made extensions, about 3 feet of wire was added by using 3 splices and 3 terminations. After the extensions were made, they installed them and the fiber rack. The crew had to make some presses on a 12470/7200 four wire high system at the neutral position. They extended the pole ground. The apprentice attempted to attach the pole ground to system neutral by using an MD6 and he made contact with the energized O phase conductor with his left hand. Electrical contact had occurred, Lineman #2 flew bucket down and informed Foreman #2. Apprentice #2 came down out of bucket on his own and Foreman #2 took him to Valley Medical Center. He was treated for electrical contact, entry wound to left ring finger and exit wound at right shoulder triceps area.

Recommendations:

- * Job briefing includes: condition of system, possible hazards associated with job.
- * Two qualified workers in the primary zone.
- * Identify, isolate, test & ground.
- * Call for medical assistance.
- * Don't transport injured.

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