

15 Electrocution – Inspection #1234573

A **30 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was electrocuted while positioning a 40 foot aluminum ladder for the purpose of painting the exterior of a residential home. On the day of the incident, two painters were moving a 40 foot aluminum ladder along the West side of a newly constructed home. The witness stated they were trying to move the ladder around the electrical line and “were not sure if it was turned off”. The ground was uneven and the ladder slid/moved contacting the powerline. One employee was able to let go of the ladder as it continued to move, but the victim could not let go of the ladder.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1a

29 CFR 1926.416(a)(1)	<p>Employees were permitted to work in proximity to electric power circuits and were not protected against electric shock by de-energizing and grounding the circuits or effectively guarding the circuits by insulation or other means.</p> <p>In that two employees were permitted to work in close proximity to an energized electrical line at 13,800 volts while they were positioning a 40 foot aluminum extension ladder to paint the exterior of the house. The electrical line was positioned approximately 7-8 feet away from the house, running parallel to the side of the house.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 1b

29 CFR 1926.416(a)(3)	<p>Before work began, the employer did not ascertain by inquiry, direct observation, or by instruments, whether any part of an energized electric power circuit, exposed to concealed, was so located that the performance of the work could bring any person, tool, or machine into physical or electrical contact with the electric power circuit.</p> <p>In that the employer did not determine where all power lines were located in the work area, nor did they determine if the proximity of the power lines would present a hazard. A 40 foot aluminum extension ladder was being set up in close proximity of an electrical power line (13,800 volts) by two employees when the ladder came into contact with the line.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 2a

29 CFR 1926.1053(b)(12)	<p>Ladders used where the employee or the ladder could contact exposed energized electrical equipment did not have nonconductive side rails.</p> <p>In that a 40 foot aluminum extension ladder was being set up in close proximity of an electrical power line (13,800 volt) by two employees when the ladder came into contact with the line.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 2b

29 CFR 1926.1060(a)

The employer did not provide a training program for each employee using ladders and stairways, as necessary, which would enable each employee to recognize hazards related to ladders and stairways and train each employee in the procedures to be followed to minimize these hazards.

In that two employees setting up a 40 foot aluminum extension ladder for the purpose of painting the exterior of a house had not received ladder training that would allow them to recognize ladder hazards and know the procedures to follow to minimize those hazards. The ladder was being set up in close proximity of an energized electrical power line (13,800 volts) by the employees when the ladder came into contact with the line.



Photo 1 of 1 – West side of the house where the employees contacted the power line (red arrows) with the 40 foot aluminum ladder (yellow arrow).