

## 29 Electrocutation – Inspection #1263792

A **30 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was electrocuted while removing a street light pole as part of a roadway expansion project. The victim was working to remove an aluminum street light pole when the pole contacted a nearby energized 7,620 volt single phase overhead power line. The street light poles had been de-energized by the local utility board prior to the beginning of the removal project. The employees were utilizing a derrick/digger to lift the pole. Four poles had been removed and employees were in the process of removing the fifth when the incident occurred. Once the pole had been rigged to the derrick, the base of the pole was unfastened and pole was lifted to be placed on a trailer. The victim was designated as the person to guide the pole from the ground and assist in controlling the pole by hand once lifted off its base. The derrick operator reported that the pole moved in the direction of the nearby live powerlines. The pole came into contact with the live power lines while the victim was touching the base of the pole which caused the victim to be electrocuted.

### 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 1926.1408(a)(1)	<b>The employer did not identify the work zone where derrick operations would be conducted.</b>
	In that a work zone was not identified around the digger derrick used during the removal of an aluminum street light pole near a 7,620 Volt power line.

#### Citation 1 Item 1b

29 CFR 1926.1408(a)(2)	<b>The employer did not determine if any part of the equipment, load line or load (including rigging and lifting accessories), if operated up to the equipment's maximum working radius in the work zone, could get closer than 20 feet to a power line.</b>
	In that the digger derrick operator/foreman did not determine if any part of the equipment, rigging or the load (aluminum street light pole) could get closer than 20 feet to the overhead 7,620 volt power line; subsequently, the pole contacted the power line during the removal process.

#### Citation 1 Item 2

29 CFR 1926.1408(b)(1)	<b>The employer did not conduct a planning meeting with the operator and the other workers who will be in the area of the equipment or load to review the location of the power line(s), and the steps that will be implemented to prevent encroachment/electrocution.</b>
	In that a meeting was not held for employees involved in the removal of the aluminum street light pole to identify steps needed to prevent encroachment/electrocution.

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**Citation 1 Item 3a**

29 CFR 1926.1408(b)(3)	<p><b>Where encroachment precautions were required under Option (2) or Option (3) of this section, an elevated warning line, barricade, or line of signs was not erected and maintained, in view of the operator, equipped with flags or similar high-visibility markings, at 20 feet from the power line (if using Option (2) of this section) or at the minimum approach distance under Table A (see section 1926.1408) (if using Option (3) of this section).</b></p> <p>In that no warning lines barricades, nor were signs erected 20 feet from the 7,620 volt power line to warn of an encroachment hazard when employees were removing an aluminum street light pole.</p>
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**Citation 1 Item 3b**

29 CFR 1926.1408(b)(4)	<p><b>One or more of the following measures (dedicated spotter, automatic warning device, automatic range of movement device, insulating link/device) were not implemented where encroachment precautions are required under Option (2) or Option (3) of this section.</b></p> <p>In that a dedicated spotter, automatic warning device, automatic range of movement device, or an insulating link/device was not used during the removal of an aluminum street light pole located near a 7,620 volt power line.</p>
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**Citation 1 Item 4**

29 CFR 1926.1408(g)(1)	<p><b>The employer did not train each operator and crew member assigned to work with equipment on topics of this section.</b></p> <p>In that employees had not been trained on requirements and hazards of working in the vicinity of overhead power lines before removing an aluminum street light pole that was located close to a 7,620 volt single phase overhead power line.</p>
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**Citation 1 Item 5**

29 CFR 1926.1412(f)(1)	<p><b>The equipment was not inspected at least every 12 months by a qualified person in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.</b></p> <p>In that the Commander C4047 Derrick/Digger that was used to remove de-energized street light poles had not received an annual inspection.</p>
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**Citation 2 Item 1**

29 CFR 1926.251(a)(2)(i)	<p><b>The employer failed to ensure rigging equipment had permanently affixed and legible identification markings as prescribed by the manufacturer that indicate the recommended safe working load.</b></p> <p>In that the hook connected to the winch line of the Commander C4047 Digger/Derrick had an illegible tag attached therefore the maximum load capacity could not be identified exposing employees to possible overloading hazards.</p>
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Photo 1 of 1 – Photo shows an overall view of the incident scene. The overhead powerlines are identified with the red arrows. The red circle indicates the original location of the street light pole.