

A **36 year old** male was **electrocuted** while in the process of trimming limbs from a large tree away from the 14Kv overhead power lines in a residential yard. The lines were approximately 22' above the ground.

The employer was hired by a residential customer to remove multiple trees in her back yard and to trim limbs from a large tree in the front yard which were near the overhead power lines. It was determined that the crew worked outside of her home on multiple days. An interview with the home-owner revealed that the victim was working in the front yard in the hydraulic lift raised of the ground about 8' by himself and two other employees were working in the back yard cutting a felled tree into smaller pieces so they could be loaded into a trailer. She explained she was in the house at the time of the incident and saw the lights flicker. She stated that after a couple of minutes she saw the two employees performing CPR on the victim.

Interviews with employees indicated that pole saw the victim was using contacted the power line as he was cutting the limbs. One employee stated there were burn marks on the victim where the pole saw would have been tucked under his arm. Employees were unable to provide the exact positioning of the basket when the fatality took place.

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.

Given the facts of this case, no violations of the TOSHA standards are citable. Due to Mr. Singletary being a sole proprietor; TOSHA does not have jurisdiction over the work that he, himself was performing the day of the accident. TOSHA does, however, have jurisdiction over the two employees that worked for him. There were no violations determined with regards to the work his employees were performing. Therefore, no citations or penalties are proposed, and it is recommended that the file be closed.



12 Electrocution—Insp # 1521923 Josh Singletary dba Josh the Tree Guy

