

FALL PROTECTION - IT'S A SNAP! ELECTROCUTIONS - DON'T GET ZAPPED!

Region VII

Vol. 1, Issue 4

ONE FATAL FALL DURING JULY EMPHASIS MONTH - by Marcia Drumm

Region 7 had one fatal fall during the month of July. The fall occurred when the victim accessed the roof of a 3 story residence using a twenty foot extension ladder. The victim was engaged in caulking and fell 26 feet. The accident is currently under investigation. There were no electrocutions due to overhead power lines during July.

Forty-seven inspections were conducted during the Falls/Electrocutions from Overhead Power Lines July emphasis month. Seventy-four percent of the employers were in compliance with standards covered under this program for falls and electrocutions. The most frequently cited standard was 1926.453(b)(2)(v)-- *A body belt shall be worn and a lanyard attached to the boom or basket when working from an aerial lift.*

Of the 47 inspections, 64% were targeted or planned inspections. Of the 36% remaining inspections, 27% were conducted due to referrals from the public.

Overall, we've had 7 fatal falls this year and 4 fatal electrocutions due to contact with overhead power lines. This compares to the same number of fatal falls and same number of fatal electrocutions during the same period for the previous year.

We'd like to reverse the trends in the accidents and so far we're on track to end the year where we did last year! Please, everyone make a special effort to spread the word about these preventable accidents.

Remember, our next emphasis month for Falls and Electrocutions due to contact with Overhead Power Lines is set for October. Train Now!

FALLS/ELECTROCUTIONS IN KANSAS CITY AREA OFFICE JURISDICTION - by Brian Drake

In the month of July, 9 out of 18 targeted inspections related to the Falls/Overhead Power Lines (OHPL) program were completed in Jackson County, Missouri by the Kansas City Area Office. Of those 9 inspections, 7 were "in-compliance," and 2 resulted in fall hazard related citations issued. One was for an employee working at a height of 65 feet without fall protection, and the other was for improper ladder usage.

Very few overhead power lines were observed on the construction sites visited, and none were observed to and from inspections.

Targeted construction sites either being completed or inactive contributed to the low number of programmed inspections completed.

Although, in the month of July, all compliance officers' eyes were wide open looking for fall and overhead power line hazards, it can be expected that they will be even more observant in October.

FALLS/OVERHEAD POWER LINES PROGRAM CD - by Doug Schneider

A new Falls/Overhead Power Lines CD has been developed for trainers in the Region VII OSHA jurisdiction (i.e., Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska). The falls section of the CD was originally developed by Geoff McKinstry from the OSHA Region I Regional Office. The falls material was modified, and the overhead power lines material was developed by Task Force members Doug Schneider from the Omaha Area Office and Corey Beacom from the Team Kansas - Wichita Office to supplement the training material developed by the Region VII Falls/OHPL Task Force already in circulation. To obtain a copy of the training CD, contact one of the OSHA Region VII offices listed in this newsletter.

SPANISH TRANSLATION OF THE “OVERHEAD POWER LINE TIPS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS” - by Peggy Taylor

Mary Harris, a compliance officer in our Wichita Area Office, translated the “Overhead Power Line Tips for Construction Workers” (employee training card) into Spanish. Dee Cantu in our OSHA Regional Office reviewed the card. We appreciate their assistance in expanding the use of this training tool to protect more workers in the construction industry. We couldn't have done it without them!

The tips will be printed on a pocket-size laminated card in September 1999. Both the Spanish translation and the English version will be available from any of the Region VII OSHA offices listed in this newsletter.

LOOK UP - LOOK OUT - FOR ELECTRICAL LINES. IT'S THE LAW! - by Corey Beacom

Reprinted from the Brochure *A Guide to Overhead Power Line Accident Prevention*. Courtesy of KPL and KGE Western Resources Company.

To help prevent contact with the high voltage overhead lines, the 1993 Kansas Legislature enacted the Overhead Power Line Accident Prevention Act. The Act attempts to ensure safer working conditions in areas around high voltage overhead lines.

This law applies, with few exceptions, to any activity that may bring an individual or equipment within 10 feet of high voltage overhead lines (lines in excess of 600 volts).

If work is to be performed near overhead lines, the line's operator must first be contacted to arrange for safety measures. Those working near the overhead line are responsible for any costs to make the work area safe, such as temporary lines, and the utility will provide a written cost estimate for the required measures on request. Normally, the utility shall commence work to make the area secure within seven working days after proper notification.

Any crane, derrick, power shovel, drilling rig, hoist, or similar equipment capable of operating within 10 feet of high voltage overhead lines must be equipped with a sign, legible at 12 feet, warning the operator not to operate the equipment within the 10 feet limit. Violations of this law may be subject to a maximum fine of \$1,000 for each violation.

If work is started before safety provisions have been made, the person or entity performing the work may be liable for damages resulting from contact with high voltage overhead lines.

If there is a dispute over the amount to be charged or work to be performed by the utility securing the line, the person requesting the utility service must either: 1) pay the estimated cost under protest and seek recovery later at an arbitration proceeding; or 2) prior to work commencing, submit to binding arbitration the reasonableness of the estimate or description of the work to be performed.

OSHA HOME PAGE - by Peggy Taylor

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Internet website is located at <http://www.osha.gov>. This is a good resource to find information about OSHA all in one place.

At this site, you can access OSHA's regulations and compliance links for access to current OSHA standards and compliance-related information, directives, interpretations, and more. There are also technical links that provide access to selected safety and health technical information.

The Fatal Facts Accident Reports describe cases that represent fatalities caused by improper practices. These reports can be accessed from the Subject Index by selecting "F" and then "Fatal Facts."

NIOSH PUBLICATIONS - by Peggy Taylor

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) Internet website containing their publications is located at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/pubs.html>. This web-

site contains NIOSH's publications that can be used as a resource to prevent accidents related to falls and to overhead power lines.

The website, which is searchable by keyword, also contains lists of NIOSH publications for the following years: 1990-1999, 1979-1989, and 1971-1978. Many of these publications contain links to display the publications. For those publications that do not contain links, you are requested to contact NIOSH at 1-800-356-4674.

Some of the NIOSH publications that relate to falls and to overhead power lines are: #98-131, Worker Deaths by Electrocution: A Summary of Surveillance Findings and Investigative Case Reports; #95-108, Preventing Electrocutions of Crane Operators and Crew Members Working Near Overhead Power Lines; #92-108, Preventing Worker Injuries and Deaths Caused by Falls From Suspension Scaffolds; #92-106, Preventing Falls and Electrocutions During Tree Trimming; #91-111, Preventing Electrocutions During Work with Scaffolds Near Overhead Power Lines; #89-110, Preventing Electrocutions of Workers Using Portable Metal Ladders Near Overhead Power Lines; #85-111, Preventing Electrocutions from Contact Between Cranes and Power Lines.

PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOR GRAVES -

by Judy Freeman

September 21, 1999, Bill Graves, Governor of the State of Kansas, signed a "State of Kansas Proclamation by the Governor" proclaiming October 1999 as *Focus on Falls and Overhead Power Lines Safety Month* in Kansas. In his Proclamation, Governor Graves urges all citizens to join in this observance.

Our thanks to Rudy Leutzinger, Project Manager, and Paul Kosmala, Kansas Department of Human Resources, Safety and Health Division, for their assistance and support with this Proclamation.

REGION VII OFFICES

KANSAS

301 N. Main, 300 Epic Center
Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 269-6644; fax: (316) 269-6185
Toll-free: 1-(800) 362-2896 (Kansas only)

MISSOURI (WESTERN)

6200 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 100
Kansas City, MO 64120
(816) 483-9531; fax: (816) 483-5167
Toll-free: 1-(800) 892-2674 (Missouri only)

MISSOURI (EASTERN)

911 Washington Avenue, Room 420
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 425-4249; fax: (314) 425-4289
Toll-free: 1-(800) 392-7743 (Missouri only)

NEBRASKA

Overland - Wolf Building, Room 100
6910 Pacific Street
Omaha, NE 68106
(402) 221-3182; fax: (402) 221-3188
Toll-free: 1-(800) 642-8963 (Nebraska only)

REGIONAL OFFICE

1100 Main Street, Suite 800
Kansas City, MO 64105
(816) 426-5861; fax: (816) 426-2750

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This newsletter is published in the OSHA Regional Office at 1100 Main Street, Suite 800, Kansas City, MO 64105, (816) 426-5861.

If you would like to receive this newsletter and the Disaster Facts via e-mail, contact Peggy Taylor at taylor-peggy@dol.gov.

If you do not have access to E-mail or would prefer to receive these documents as a paper copy, please return the following:

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