



Safety Alliance Updates

In Conjunction with the OSHA Alliance

OSHA Alliance News

On August 19, 2009 the OSHA Alliance members met in Atlanta, Georgia as part of our quarterly update. The members make up OSHA Region IV, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Fifth and Tenth Districts and Local Unions, Southeastern Line Apprenticeship and Training, and Southeastern Line Constructors Chapter and its Members. The members discussed several items relating to the process and needs of the alliance, as well as, the Mid-year report, which demonstrates the achievements of the program. It was noted in the report that training and educational numbers were on the rise, estimating approximately 3560 certifications have been

issued so far this year. Representatives have promoted the Alliance during numerous speaking and exhibit opportunities during the first 2 quarters of the year, reaching approximately 100 new employees. The quarterly newsletter continues to be disseminated with approximately 1800 copies sent out to signatory employers, Local Unions, and employees. Another topic discussed was the upcoming "safety stand down" being held on November 4, 2009 at construction sites throughout the State of Georgia. The Georgia Struck by Alliance Safety Stand Down will stop work at construction sites in Georgia and conduct work zone safety training focused on the prevention of

struck by accidents. Flyers will be distributed and presentations conducted. "The stand down will heighten employees' awareness and their ability to identify and eliminate work-related hazards in the construction community," said Cindy Coe, OSHA's Regional Administrator for the Southeast. Our members expressed a strong interest in participating in future stand downs and will work with all participating agencies to achieve all employees' safety in work zones. The meeting concluded with individual employer reports, near-miss activity and general safety topics. The next meeting is scheduled on November 17, 2009.

2010 Meeting Dates:

February 24 Alliance meeting

May 5 Alliance meeting

August 18 Alliance meeting

November 10 Alliance meeting

Safety Thought:

"Safety is a state of mind - Accidents are an absence of mind!"
-Anonymous

2010 Alliance Program Goals:

- Host Employee Participation Day
- Meet Four (4) times per year, once per quarter
- Promote the Alliance through speaking and exhibit engagements/opportunities
- Schedule three (3) speakings at employer facilities
- Participate in the annual Safety Stand Down
- Continue to disseminate the quarterly newsletter
- Complete the Alliance Website
- Invite one state plan

Near Miss Report #2

500 kV Substation Switch House

Details of Near Miss:

A Lineman was involved in an electrical flash while working behind a control panel. There were no burn injuries from the flash, no property damage, nor were there any Power Quality Events as a result of this flash.

Sequence of events:

A Lineman was working in the switch house removing Alarm Switch Breakers. The breakers were not coming out easily and appeared to be stuck or being secured from the rear by a bolt. The Lineman went behind the panel and attempted to loosen a nut with non-insulated needle nose pliers. The nut was located on a negatively charged secondary bus bar and there was very little clearance to the positively charged secondary bus bar. The pliers slipped off the nut and bridged the negative and positive bus creating a flash.

Root Cause Analysis:

- The breakers became difficult to remove (they were stuck).
- The back of the panel was covered with insulated blanket because the job did not require access to the energized secondary bus. Individual bus had not been covered with insulated blanket.
- Due to tight spacing, insulated tools would not fit over the nut being loosened.
- Due to tight spacing, non-insulated needle nose pliers were used to loosen the nut. Needle nose pliers were not the appropriate tool for this job.
- The employee did not know that there were class 00 rubber gloves at the job site; therefore, rubber gloves were not worn.
- Employees had been working for several days straight and were fatigued.

Root Cause: The appropriate principles of insulation and isolation were not applied. Due to the close proximity of various energized secondary bus, which were of differing electrical charges, insulated blankets should have been installed to prevent contact.

Contributing Factors:

- There was a pre-job briefing discussing what was energized and what was not. All of the areas that were going to be accessed were covered with insulating blanket material.
- The Lineman had difficulty removing the breakers. There was confusion by the Lineman doing the work whether or not the breakers being removed were held by bolts from behind the breaker.
- When the Lineman had difficulty removing the breaker, he did not stop and change the controls needed for the changed work plan. Additional insulating blanket was not installed.

Root Cause Solution:

- Appropriate di-electric cover shall be installed to prevent contact with voltages below 300 volts. If cover is not practical, and there is the potential for contact, an outage shall be obtained to eliminate the hazard.
- Conduct a conference call with company General Foreman and Foreman. Ask all to conduct an inventory supply of secondary insulating cover-up(s) (blankets).
- All pre-job briefings and Job Site Safety Reports (JSSR) prepared for work in control houses shall include a detailed review of energized work procedures. This review shall include an indication of all energized equipment, the nominal voltage of this equipment, methods for establishing insulation and isolation techniques, and what to do if the work plans change.

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