



SAFETY ALERT # 24



July 6, 2007

In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.

DUMP BOX LIFTED INTO POWERLINES CAUSES FATALITY

What Happened

A 53-year-old truck driver was electrocuted when the raised long-bed dump trailer of the truck he was driving contacted an energized 4,800-volt overhead line. The victim wanted to dump the tare weight (dirt, left over material) from the dump trailer bed so he positioned the truck in an area away from where the work was being done. While inside the tractor cab, he activated the dump trailer to raise it. The event was not witnessed. A probable incident scenario was developed during the interview of the decedent's employer. He suggested that the decedent would have wanted to ensure that the tare weight was leaving the dump trailer. While the trailer was rising, he may have exited the truck cab and walked along the side of the truck trailer body to take a look at the exiting tare. Sometime during this activity, the top of the trailer bed contacted the overhead line (Figure 1). It is unknown if the decedent was aware of the contact. A second truck driver and his passenger, a paramedic, immediately ran to the decedent and began CPR. Emergency response arrived and transported the decedent to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.



Extended trailer bed touching power lines
(lines enhanced for clarity)



Evidence on the tires of electrical current
seeking ground

Prevention:

- Conduct a field survey prior to fieldwork to determine any hazards at work locations, (such as overhead power lines), determine the work tasks to be performed, and identify safe areas to perform the work away from the hazard. (Job/Task Hazard Analysis)
- Contact the electrical power company to gather safety information and then develop and implement safe work procedures while working near energized lines.
- Consider installing high voltage proximity alarms on all equipment capable of being elevated and train operators on the use of this equipment.
- Measure maximum height the equipment can extend and post that information in the cab.
- Train employees on the hazards of all utilities and appropriate response procedures.

*Special thanks to the Michigan Facility Assessment and Control Evaluation Program
(MIFACE - <http://oem.msu.edu/miface.asp>)*

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