



# SAFETY ALERT #37



January 25, 2010

*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.*

## ELECTRICAL LINEMAN ELECTROCUTED

### What Happened

A journeyman lineman/foreman was electrocuted during the installation of a new 15 KV switch for a single phase, 7,200-volt overhead power line suspended from a wood pole. The decedent was working from an insulated aerial bucket. He had not de-energized the can arrestor fastened to the side of the transformer and had removed his lineman's gloves prior to removing the first lower bolt of the arrestor. His coworkers believe the can arrestor tipped and the decedent attempted to catch it with his right hand. The current passed through his right hand, across his chest and exited his left hand, which was in contact with a second energized conductor. The decedent yelled to his ground man to lower the bucket. When the bucket was lowered, the decedent was still breathing, but unconscious. After taking the victim out of the bucket, the crew began CPR. Arriving six minutes later, the emergency response personnel took over medical care, and then transported him to a local hospital where he was declared dead.



Right hand cotton glove after electrical contact

### Prevention:

- Employers should ensure that linemen follow established safe work procedures to de-energize, ground, and verify the work area is de-energized through testing prior to beginning maintenance and repair operations on power lines.
- Employers should ensure that linemen use all appropriate protective equipment, including insulated tools, before attempting any work on power lines with energized circuits.
- Employers should develop checklists of proper safety procedures and equipment for each job, which could be used to reinforce safe work practices.
- Employers should ensure communication devices are operational in all work locations or have alternate methods of communication developed. (Cell phones had poor service availability making contact with emergency responders difficult).



Transformer/can arrestor involved.