

Subject: Safety Alert: Overhead Powerline Contact

From: "Enform" <safety@enform.ca>

Date: 07/09/2017 2:49 PM

To: Mike Doyle <mjd@cagc.ca>



Overhead Powerline Contact

Safety Alert

Issue #: 09-2017

Enform

Enform is the health and safety association for Canada's upstream oil and gas industry. We provide leading health and safety training, programs and services, touching the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers each year. We are dedicated to the continuous improvement of safety with a vision of eliminating work-related incidents or injuries in the upstream oil and gas industry.

An Industry Product

This document was developed by industry for industry. Working collaboratively, Enform works with the submitting organization representative in developing these documents to improve the industry's hazard awareness. Canada's leading oil and gas industry trade associations support the use of shared information to help companies of all sizes improve performance.

Disclaimer

This document is intended to be flexible in application and provide guidance to users rather than act as a prescriptive solution. Recognizing that one solution is not appropriate for all users and situations, it presents accepted guidance that generally apply to all situations. While Enform believes that the information contained herein is reliable under the conditions and subject to the limitations set out, Enform does not guarantee its accuracy. The use of this document or any information contained will be at the user's sole risk, regardless of any fault or negligence of Enform and the submitting organization.

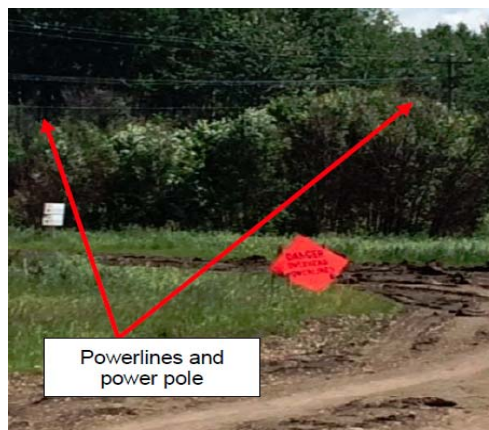
Copyright/Right to Reproduce

Copyright for this document is held by Enform, 2017. All rights reserved. Enform encourages the copying, reproduction and distribution of this document to promote health and safety in the workplace, provided that Enform is acknowledged. However, no part of this publication may be copied, reproduced or distributed for profit or other commercial enterprise, nor may any part be incorporated into any other publication, without written permission of Enform.

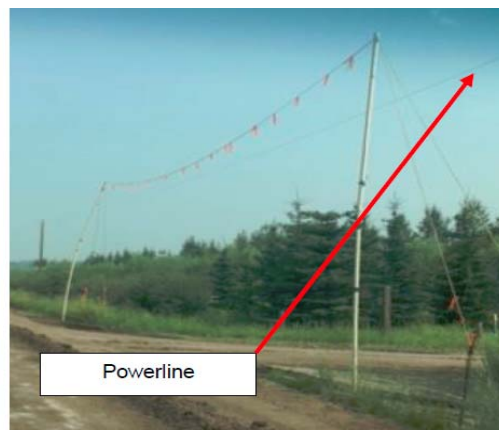
For more information on this Alert, please contact: safety@enform.ca.

Description of Incident:

A track hoe was being used to move matting on a pipeline worksite, when the track hoe boom made contact with a 25,000 volt overhead powerline. Electricity arced to the track hoe boom and shortly thereafter the powerline fuse blew, de-energizing the powerline. Spotters were present during the track hoe work which was being conducted during intense sunlight glare. No injuries occurred, however there was potential for a serious injury or fatality.



View of road where powerline contact occurred



View of height limit barriers installed

What Caused It?

The track hoe operator was not able to see the powerline and spotters because of glare from the sun.

Contributing Factors:

- Track hoe operator had 34 years of experience operating heavy equipment. He may have been overconfident in his abilities and complacent in understanding the risks of overhead electrical powerlines
- Track hoe operator did not stop when he could not see the powerline and the spotters
- Spotters were not equipped with air horns (as required by company procedures) or radios to alert the operator and others of imminent danger

Corrective/Preventative Actions:

- When the equipment operator is not able to see the spotter or when sunlight or poor visibility obstructs his/her vision, stop the job and reorientate
- Scout the travel route with the equipment operator for overhead powerlines and other hazards prior to mobilizing equipment to the job site and place appropriate signage (as per investigation report)

appropriate signage was in place)

- Hold a pre-job safety meeting at each new worksite and prepare a site specific field level hazard assessment with the work crew to ensure that everyone understands what the hazards are and what controls are required to reduce risk. Assign different crew members to lead the safety discussion for each job site to help raise awareness and encourage communications
- Review safe work procedure and safe limit of approach distances with the crew that is conducting the specific task
- Ensure that the equipment operator and spotters are provided with two-way radios and air horns, which will enable them to communicate hazards effectively
- Install flagged safety height limit barriers (plastic goal posts) underneath overhead powerlines at worksite locations
- Remove all electronic and personal devices (iPads, cell phones, stereos, listening or gaming devices, etc.) that could cause distractions to the operator while working

Click [here](#) to access the entire online library of Enform Safety Alerts.

By industry, for industry



Enform
5055 11 St NE
Calgary Alberta T2E 8N4
Canada

This email is intended for mjd@cagc.ca.
[Update your preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe](#)