
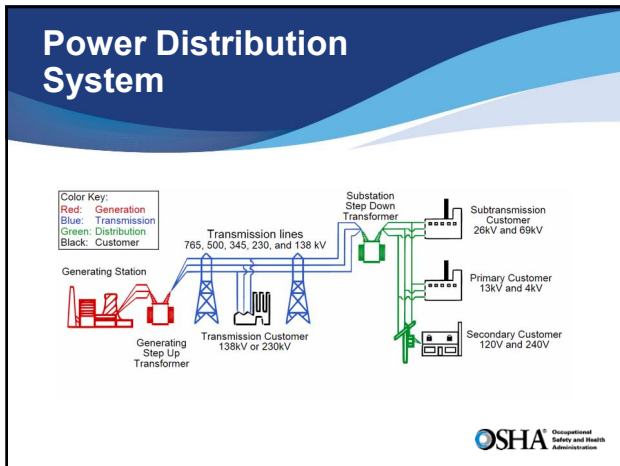


Power Transmission & Distribution Fatality

Jon Fogleson, CHMM
OSHA Compliance Safety & Health Officer
Appleton Area Office



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Incident on January 21, 2021

- At approximately 10:30 am, a plumbing contractor struck an underground electrical line with the bucket of his excavator.
- At 10:50 am, utility contractor employee (EE #1) arrived on scene and used his “hot stick” to open the three fuse disconnects on the overhead lines (approximately 7,200 VAC/line)



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Incident, cont.

- EE #1 called for additional response team members to assist in the repair of the line.
- EE #1 opened T1 and applied grounds to the secondary side going to customer #1, but not the primary side from the riser pole or the line to T2 that fed customer #2.
- Employees did not apply grounds to either side of T2.




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Transformer #1

Primary (Left side of T1)
Secondary (Right side of T1)

Left side of Primary (from power line)
Right side of Secondary (to T2)

Lines come in on left of Primary and goes out on right side of Primary (to Transformer #2)



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Transformer #2



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Incident, cont.



OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Administration



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Back-up generator

**Kohler 30 kW
Back-up generator**

Installed in 1999 for Y2K issues.

Connected to an automatic transfer switch to provide power to most of the building.

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Throw switch to supply power to the new warehouse.

Installed in 2020

Turned on approximately 12:30 PM when employees noticed that the warehouse lights were not on.


Load wires and line wires were reversed. When the switch was thrown, Power from the generator backed to T2 and then to the Supervisor working on the damaged line.




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29 CFR 1910.269

- 29 CFR 1910.269 covers the operation and maintenance of electric power generation, control, transformation, transmission, and distribution lines and equipment, including related equipment for the purpose of communication or metering that are accessible only to qualified employees




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Mistakes made

- No safety meeting/job briefing
- No communication about grounding

- 1910.269(c)
- 1910.269(n)




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Findings and Citations issued

- Plumbing Contractor – Serious, 29 CFR 1926.651(b)(3)

- Electrical Distribution Company – Serious, 29 CFR 1910.269(n)(2)



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Questions?



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