



WHAT ACCIDENTS CAN TEACH US ABOUT SAFETY

THREE LESSONS EVERY LINEMAN SHOULD KNOW

Accidents happen, and when they do they can be a great learning tool for everyone in our industry. We've highlighted several recent accidents that happened to our apprentices and the lessons they teach us.

1. LESSON 1: Use Caution When Tossing Equipment to the Ground

A sixth-step apprentice was replacing a two-position fiberglass arm when the lineman told him to throw the arm to the ground. The apprentice did so and the arm took a bad bounce and hit a car. Lessons learned — If your company allows its employees to throw equipment and hardware to the ground from an elevated position, make sure the area is clear of personnel and anything else you may damage. If the area is not clear, use a handline.

2. LESSON 2: Know Your Hand Signals

A seventh-step apprentice was moving a bucket next to a guard structure for a 69 KV line. The lineman on the crew was removing the screw-in ground rod when the apprentice mistook the lineman's motion for a signal to turn, and backed the bucket into the guard structure. Lesson learned — Be aware of the situation and area around you and make certain you and your spotter understand what signals will be used and what those signals mean.

3. LESSON 3: Safe Climbing

A second-step apprentice had to seek medical attention after he cut out during a pole top rescue. The apprentice was taken to the hospital to have splinters removed. Lesson learned — Work on your climbing form and skills at class and make certain you are sounding the pole and checking its condition.

Remember, it's not only important to prevent on-the-job accidents, but it's also important to understand how they happen and what you can do to make certain they won't happen to you.

More About The Missouri Valley Constructors Apprenticeship & Training Program:

The apprenticeship program based in Indianola, Iowa, is one of seven locations operated by the organization. The others are in the states of Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Iowa program occupies a training facility, which includes an outdoor pole yard. The Iowa program trains thousands of apprentice linemen each year.

For additional information, or to schedule a visit to our training facilities, contact

Michael Brown, Executive Director at mbrown@movalleyjadc.org or call 515-961-5062.



MISSOURI VALLEY LINE CONSTRUCTORS APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING PROGRAM

1707 NORTH 14TH STREET | INDIANOLA, IA 50125 | P 515.961.5062 | F 515.961.7332
TOLL FREE: 888.254.0714 | WWW.MOVALLEYJADC.ORG

