

Safety Alert

GREEN

EFFECTIVE Date: April 18, 2016

CE-SA-1738

CONTRACTOR INCIDENT: INDUSTRY-WIDE CONCERN

On April 14, a five man contractor crew was working to replace existing wooden towers with 138kV spec steel towers on the ComEd system. At the time of incident the contractor was in the process of setting the top section of a steel structure when the appropriately rated rigging used to lift the section failed. This caused the top steel structure section to fall and make contact with equipment below. At this time it is unclear which equipment came in contact with the aerial bucket during the collapse. The contact caused the contractor employee to be catapulted from the aerial bucket to the ground below. The failed rigging has been preserved and the cause of the rigging failure is being investigated. The contractor employer has reported that the employee was wearing a fall arrest full-body harness, but had not adequately anchored the arrest system to a rated anchorage point. Fortunately, the contractor is in stable condition at this time.

The contractor is conducting a formal investigation. All details are not currently known about this incident however it is important that we remind ourselves and each other of the risks associated with the work we do.

The following provides guidance for this operation performed by the contractor:

1. ComEd has multiple strategies for lifting the top section of steel overhead transmission poles to prevent sling damage and sling failure, be aware that all of these are governed by section 2.16.1 of the Safety Rule Book that states "All rigging equipment **SHALL** be inspected before use":
 - Utilize vang plates, when appropriately located due to model type, at the top to attach shackles. The applied shackles allow for connection to the section and eliminate having to choke the slings around the section. This also keeps the slings, while under tension, above and not in contact with the top flange of the section.
 - Using dual choked slings in opposing directions in combination with protective devices (softeners) prevents synthetic slings from contacting rough steel edges. In addition, a spreader beam can be utilized below the crane hook to redirect sling angles away from the top edge.
 - Slings used in the double choked fashion listed above **MUST** be installed below a secure device/attachment point on the pole section to prevent them from sliding up during this type of lift.
2. It is ComEd's expectation that all employees working in buckets abide by the Safety Rules for Life and use their PPE to tether and protect themselves from falls. The Safety Rule Book, sections 1.16.1.4 and 4.4.14 address fall protection in buckets. These rules mandate that fall protection shall be used while operating articulating aerial lifts and buckets.

ComEd has taken several steps to ensure our employees are protected against falls when working from elevated surfaces.

- Safety Professionals have attended qualified person fall protection training
- Fall protection training has been added to refresher training classes
- Employees have been provided equipment to ensure 100 percent fall protection is available

This event comes just as OSHA prepares to kick off the National Fall Protection Week, May 2-6. This week is designed to raise awareness around preventing fall hazards in construction. Safety will be communicating throughout this week on new measures put in place to bolster fall protection across all work groups of the company. ComEd employees are subject to similar working situations as the contractor who was injured on April 14th. The outcome from a fall does not discriminate based on the type of work being done. No employee ever plans a fall from a height. The ability to recognize the hazards of working aloft, understanding how they can be mitigated, and putting the protection needed in place is the only way to remain injury free.

Fatalities caused by falls from elevations continue to be a leading cause of death on the job, you owe it to yourself and your loved ones to take the time to ensure you are always protected against a potential fall from an elevation!



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