

Safety Flash For leaders to discuss with their team



The Safety Flash is intended to provide rapid awareness of a safety incident. Further learnings and corrective actions will be shared as available and appropriate.

Incident Title:	Colfax Pole Fall - CONT Wilson SIF Potential - Immediate Corrective Actions
Date of incident:	1/6/2022
Line of business:	Wilson Construction Company
Incident description:	On Thursday, January 06, 2022, at approximately 1800 hours, while performing storm restoration work for Field Operations North, Sierra Division, a PG&E Line Contractor crew from Wilson Construction Company was involved in a fall from heights incident, resulting in injuries of two employees. The crew assignment included straightening a pole and replacing a cross arm on the Shady Glen 1102 12kV circuit. After digging down to straighten a pole, the crew assessed the pole's integrity and tamped the soil. After the pole was tamped, the journeyman lineman and apprentice lineman climbed to replace the crossarm and bring the conductor back into position. While changing the crossarm, the pole failed at ground level and fell downhill with both contractors attached at cross arm level, approximately 20 feet from the pole butt to where the pole was in the ground. The pole contacted downed trees before hitting the ground and then rolled downhill approximately 15 feet to the right of way before coming to rest. Both contract employees were injured upon contact with the ground. The crew immediately called EMS for support, and the two employees were transported to Roseville Sutter Hospital for evaluation.
INITIAL	Preliminary Findings:
Learnings Safety reminders Preventative actions:	• The damaged leaning pole was a 40 ft. Class 5 Cellon treated wood pole installed in 1967.
	 1 pole to the north and 1 pole to the south of the subject damaged pole were also damaged during the storm.
	 Contract Coworkers followed proper wood pole inspection procedures in the Red Book before climbing the pole.
	 During the pre-climbing visual inspection and hammer test; there were no signs of damage or compromise.
	 Post-Incident Inspections of the failed pole did not find evidence of rot or decay on or in the pole.
	• The pole failure was a clean break, indicating that the pole likely sustained a compression crack when shock loaded by adjacent poles coming down during storm conditions.
	Interim Corrective Actions for all PG&E Electric Operations Coworkers and Contractors:
	Follow <u>TD-2923P-01 Attachment 6</u> when assessing any damaged or leaning pole.
	 Repairs to ALL leaning wood poles should be conducted from a bucket truck whenever possible. If the leaning pole is not bucket truck accessible, follow the requirements in <u>TD-</u> <u>2325P-02</u> before climbing.

Author: Jim Gill

• Until the Cause Evaluation investigation is completed, all overhead repairs should be made from a bucket truck if possible. Employees and contractors shall not climb a wood pole adjacent to a failed pole that is leaning unless it is adequately supported by guys, a stub or other acceptable means before climbing.



Figure 1: Incident Pole Prior to Failure







ALL-EXPENSES-PAID LINE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS SPONSORED BY IBEW 1245



Have you dreamed of becoming a Power Lineman?

The utility industry needs skilled and trained lineworkers now more than ever before. A career as a lineman comes with IBEW union representation, exceptional pay and topnotch benefits – but most importantly, it's a challenging, fulfilling, rewarding and exciting job that's unlike any other trade. **You can make a real difference by powering your community!**

Ready to start on the path towards becoming a lineman? Line School is a great place to start. IBEW Local 1245 is offering four all-expenses-paid Line School scholarships to the Northwest JATC Training Center (Volta) in Oregon. The scholarships include full tuition, fees, tools, lodging and \$60 per day for meals.

Eligibility: Applicants must live in the jurisdiction of IBEW Local 1245 and be the first generation in their family to work in the utility industry. Applicants must have:

1. Proof of one year of Algebra;

- 2. A High School diploma or GED by the end of the academic year in which the scholarship application was completed, and
- 3. A current valid CA or NV driver's license with no restrictions (CDL, while not required, is preferred).

Application Process: Applications are accepted from March 1 through March 31 for the fall class, and October 1 through October 31 for the spring class. Applicants will be required to submit two letters of recommendation from a non-relative instructor, principal, counselor, or supervisor, and a 500-word essay. The essay topic shall be related to the Labor Movement and/or working in the Electric Utility Industry. Recommendations and essays shall be emailed together to GoodJobs@IBEW1245.com. Four recipients will be selected each year (two in the spring and two in the fall) to receive this one-time scholarship.

Don't miss this opportunity to launch an exciting, lucrative career in the utility industry. Apply for the Ayeta Scholarship!*

*The Jairus Ayeta Line School scholarship, established in 2020, is named in honor of an IBEW 1245 apprentice who was the victim of a fatal workplace tragedy on August 4, 2018 while restoring power at the Carr Fire outside Redding, California.

2.10 Working in Elevated Positions

- (a) Before climbing poles or structures, or approaching the overhead work area, employees shall familiarize themselves with the circuits and apparatus thereon and any unusual conditions which might present a hazard.
- (b) Fall Protection: When work is performed at elevated locations more than 4 feet (1.2 meters) above the ground on poles, towers, or similar structures the employer shall require the employees to use either fall arrest equipment, work positioning equipment, or travel restricting equipment if other fall protection methods have not been provided (e.g. guardrails, safety nets, etc.). The use of body belts for fall arrest systems is prohibited.
 - (1) Employees in aerial lift equipment shall be secured to the lift equipment when in an elevated position by a lanyard attached to a full-body harness.
 - (2) Employees working from Ladders and Horizontal Platforms; Anchorages used for attachment of personal fall arrest equipment shall be independent of any anchorage being used to support or suspend platforms and capable of supporting at least 5,000 pounds per employee attached, or shall be designed, installed, and used as follows:
 - i. As part of a complete personal fall arrest system which maintains a safety factor of at least two; and (B) under the supervision of a qualified person
 - ii. Independent Anchorages must be attached directly to the Structure.
 - (3) Safety belts/body belts are prohibited for use in personal fall arrest systems but may be used as part of a fall restraint or positioning device system.
 - (4) Safety belts/body belts used as part of a positioning device system shall be rigged such that an employee cannot free fall more than 2 feet. Transfer lanyard shall not be used as a primary working belt.
 - (5) A body harness may be used in a personal fall restraint positioning or fall arrest system. When a body harness is used in a fall arrest system, the lanyard shall be rigged with a deceleration device to limit maximum arresting force on an employee to 1,800 pounds and prevent the employee form hitting any levels or objects below the basked to platform and shall limit free fall to a maximum of 6 feet.
- (c) Each qualified employee climbing or changing location on poles, towers, or similar structures must use 100% fall protection equipment unless the employer can demonstrate that climbing or changing location with fall protection is infeasible or creates a greater hazard than climbing or changing location without it.
- (d) Not more than one employee shall ascend or descend a pole at the same time. The first employee shall be in place on the pole or on the ground before the next employee ascends or descends the pole. When it becomes necessary for one employee to work above the other, they shall exercise extreme care.
- (e) Before climbing poles, ladders, scaffolds, or other elevated structures, or riding span wires, messengers or cables, or entering cable cars, boatswains' chairs or similar equipment, the employee shall first ensure that said structure or device is strong enough to safely sustain their weight.
- (f) Employees shall observe the pole brand to assist in evaluating that the pole is set to proper depth.
- (g) The personal use of cell phones while working in elevated positions is prohibited.

(h) Aerial Rescue

- (1) <u>Description</u>: Aerial Rescue is used whenever a person is incapacitated while in an elevated position. The purpose in rescuing a person is to clear the victim from any imminent danger, administer first aid, and lower the victim to the ground as quickly as possible. NOTE: As with all rescue operations, the safety of the rescuer(s) shall be taken into consideration before a rescue is attempted.
- (2) <u>Training</u>: The employer shall establish rescue procedures and provide training in emergency response. Training in aerial rescue procedures shall be provided for employees whose job assignments may require them to perform aerial rescues.
- (3) <u>Rescue Breathing</u>: In the event it becomes impossible to lower a victim immediately or within a reasonable amount of time (three to four minutes), rescue breathing should be started at once.
- (4) <u>Rescue Equipment</u>: Lines used for emergency rescue such as lowering a person to the ground shall have a minimum breaking strength of 2,650 pounds and shall be readily available on the jobsite.

FOREMAN

- 6.2 On any line job where two (2) or more Journeyman are employed, a Foreman shall be designated by the Employer. Employers under this Agreement shall not be restricted from assigning work to Foreman; when such practices are permitted in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between any IBEW Local Union and the utility customer.
 - 1. Working Foreman may be called by name from the Out-of-Work registers. The applicant called by name must have signed the register not less than three (3) days prior to being referred, Saturdays and Sundays excluded.

Except as provided in Section 3.2, when the employer desires to employ a particular applicant as Foreman, he shall notify the dispatcher of the name of the applicant requested. Upon such request, the dispatcher shall refer the applicant, provided the applicant has been employed for a period of at least one (1) year in the past three and one-half ($3\frac{1}{2}$) years under a collective bargaining agreement between the parties to this Agreement. Only one (1) such Foreman shall be allowed on a crew at any one (1) time, and any Foreman called by name must remain in the position of Foreman while employed by the Employer.

- 2. No Working Foreman shall work when energized work is being performed on 600 volts or more by members of his/her crew.
- 3. No Foreman shall work when his/her crew is more than five (5) employees including himself, except that he may be the sixth (6th) employee when an Apprentice is on the crew.
- 4. General Foreman is a non-working classification.

No Foreman shall act as Foreman on more than one (1) crew, or job at one time. Workers shall be employed, laid off and if necessary, discharged by the Foreman or Company Management of Journeyman status and shall receive all instructions on the job from their immediate supervisor.

No Foreman of one job shall be transferred to another job for the purpose of working as a Journeyman on overtime unless previous connection with the overtime job requires special consideration.

No worker shall be paid Foreman s pay unless he is working as a Foreman.

On any job where three (3) or more gang Foreman are employed, a General Foreman shall be designated by the Employer.

All Foreman and General Foreman must possess the qualifications of Journeyman Lineman, except for crews working on electrical foundations, underground electrical substructure work and roads. A foreman on those crews may be a qualified person, as designated by the Employer.

Foreman and General Foreman shall not be discriminated against by the Union for performing as an Employer's representative. Any questions pertaining to this Agreement regarding disciplinary action of Foreman or General Foreman shall be referred to the Labor-Management Committee.