



May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Outside Line Weekly Newsletter

### *Accidents and Incidents*

#### **Greenville**

A traffic control company, serving as a subcontractor for a civil crew, was tasked with moving a light plant to a new location. The driver attempted to... It was determined that the driver was travelling too fast for the conditions at hand, which included slight rain. Also, the hitch size was incorrect for the trailer attachment point.

#### **Shingletown**

A distribution crew was tasked with replacing a pole on a customer's property. The crew completed the task and prepared to re-energize the line. The Foreman, being the last person out of the work location, attempted to back up and contacted a water take. The tank ended up having a small dent and lead. The crew fixed the leak, notified the customer, and completed the re-energization of the line. The truck was not fitted with a backup camera. No injuries were reported. The company replaced the customer tank three days following the incident.

#### **Clearlake**

The crew was tasked with trenching and conduit installation. As employee was walking to another truck, in slightly muddy conditions. As he was walking, started to fall but caught himself. During that time, he heard a "pop" in his knee and reported to his supervisor. Employee was advised by the On-Site nurse to ice the injury. After a few days, the injury did not feel any better and was advised to have x-rays performed. No results are known currently.

#### **Western Line (NECA) Safety Alert – April 2023**

See the attached alert, regarding Altec Digger Derrick Pedestal Failure.

### **Bulletin Board**

***Congratulations to new  
Local Union 1245  
Journeyman Lineman:***

Eduardo Montoya  
Jakob Miller  
Jeff Van Camp  
Nicholas Orosco  
Sean Barzan  
Bryce Blount  
Chad Cowan  
Salvador Garcia  
Greg Linker  
Robert Saiz  
Joseph Williams

***California-Nevada JATC  
Upcoming Training:***

**CPR –**  
6/9/23, 0600 – 1000

**First Aid –**  
6/9/23, 1000 – 1400

**OSHA 10 ET&D –**  
TBD

Visit [www.calnevjatc.org](http://www.calnevjatc.org),  
under the Web Services tab for  
more information.

# Redbook Review

## Article 2.02 – Energized High-Voltage Conductors of Apparatus

Journeyman Lineman working on, near and including above energized lines or equipment of over 600 volts shall be assisted by another journeyman lineman or hot apprentice, one to one, on the same pole, a suitable aerial insulated platform, structure, or location. It is also permissible for the work to be performed by one journeyman lineman/hot apprentice on the pole and one journeyman lineman/hot apprentice in a suitable aerial insulated platform. (Two separate poles or structures may be considered one for the purpose of this rule if both men can step to the other pole or structure without descending to the ground to render immediate assistance.)

During the time work is being done on, near, or above energized conductors or parts of equipment connected to high-voltage systems, a Journeyman Lineman, or Hot Apprentice shall be in proximity at each work location.

- (a) Act primarily as an observer for the purpose of preventing an incident or accident, and
- (b) Render immediate assistance in the event of an incident/accident.

**Foreman.** While live line work is in progress, the foreman's sole responsibility shall be to observe activities from the ground.

**For clarification of the above section, the California-Nevada JATC has taken a stance that apprentices are NOT allowed to operate a bucket truck, alone, during work within the Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) of 600 volts or more.**

## Outside Line Construction Contacts

Assistant Business Manager – Ralph Kenyon (707) 483-2948  
Business Representative – Fred Aboud (775) 857-9750  
Business Representative – Ben Contreras (707) 410-8834  
Business Representative – Ethan Stonecipher (707) 432-8450

Main Office – (707) 452-2700

# Contract Moment

## Article 3.9 – Care of Tools/PPE

Workers employed under the terms of this Agreement shall use reasonable care in the installation of material and shall perform all work in a workman-like manner and as directed by the Employer or his/her Representative, as provided in 6.2 and in the safe keeping and preservation in good condition of the Employer's tools or equipment issued to them, provided the Employer furnishes the necessary lockers, toolboxes, or other safe places for the storage of them. If Personal Protective Equipment [PPE] and Tools issued to the employee (list of PPE/Tools and value will be signed off by employee at the time of employment/issuance) by the employer are not returned to the employer at time of separation, an amount equal to the Employer's cost of the non-returned items, or items damaged beyond normal wear and tear shall be deducted from the employee's final wages. All Company issued PPE/Tools to be returned upon termination of employment.

Note: FR Clothing shall not be eligible for deduction from final paycheck.

# Mental Health Resources

## Member Assistance Program:

1-800-332-2191

## National Suicide Prevention Hotline:

988 or

1-800-273-8255

## SAMSHA Distress Helpline:

1-800-985-5990

## NAMI Helpline

1-800-950-6264 or

Text to 62640

## Benefit Contacts

LINECO – (800) 323-7268

NEAP/NEBF – (301) 556-4300

MAP – (800) 332-2191

# Altec Digger Derrick Pedestal Failure: **Immediate Action Required!**

## Incident Description:

FYI a Chapter Member recently had a catastrophic boom failure incident that could have resulted in a life-threatening outcome. Fortunately, there were no injuries, and the incident is under further investigation.

Due to this incident, a second Altec Digger Derrick has been found that shows similar metal fatigue indicators (a cracked gusset support).



## Crew Actions Recommended:

To create capacity to fail safely, **the following actions** should be completed prior to using any Altec Digger Derrick truck in the field.

- When inspecting to comply with this Safety Alert, and when performing daily pre-use inspections, the Operator shall **visually inspect** the turret pedestal for any signs of metal fatigue (cracks/distortion/significant rust). Should the inspection reveal a possible defect, be sure to take pictures and report findings to your local Mechanic.
- Always use the load chart when performing any lift task. Manufacturer best practices **do not** apply unknown loads to the boom and turret.
- Booms are meant for vertical, in line lifts only **without** side strain. **Do not** use the claws to rock the pole back and forth to assist in pulling operation.
- **If using the boom to lift the pole**, the winch line should not be engaged (do not wind up). This ensures the hydraulic overpressure lockout is providing protection.
- **Always use the Pole Jacks** as intended when performing pole removal tasks.

Date of Incident: 2/20/2023

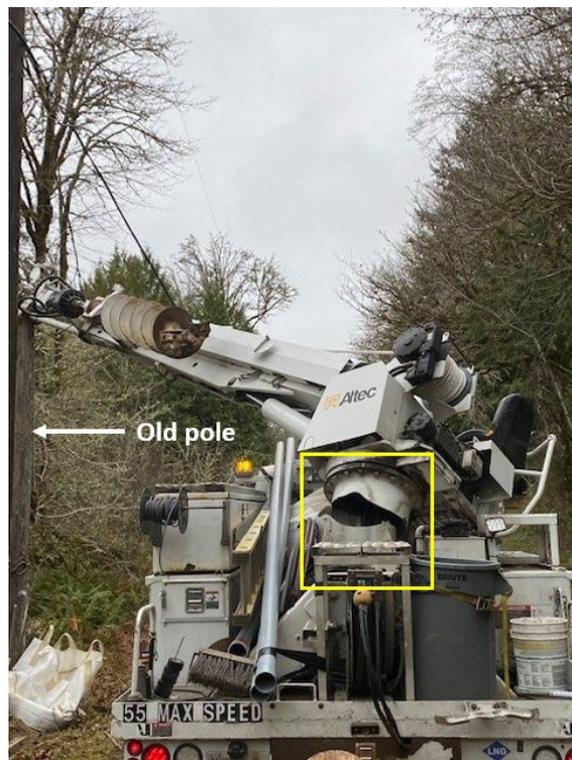
Task: Old pole removal

Crew Makeup: Line

Incident: Turret failure

### **INCIDENT SUMMARY:**

The crew had successfully replaced a 3-phase pole and was in the process of pulling the old cedar pole butt section that had been topped about 15' above ground. At the time of the pick at-tempt, the 2nd stage of the boom was extended about 3/4 way out and at a 35 degree angle. When applying pressure to the winchline, the old pole butt rose about 6 inches when suddenly the turret pedestal of the digger derrick broke, detaching the boom from the truck. The tip of the boom came to rest on the top of the old pole and the operators platform came to rest against a sand bag directly in front of the turret. The Foreman notified the Base Manager of the incident and a second line truck and a Mechanic was called to the scene. The second line truck removed the detached boom and loaded it on the pole trailer. There were no injuries and the incident is under investigation.



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### **Where is our capacity for failure?**

With the boom at a 35 degree angle and second stage approximately 3/4's of the way extended and a winch line rated at 13,000 LB.'s, the lift was well within its safe load parameters. In addition in 2019, the manufacturer added struts to fortify the turret pedestal for added safety capacity. In this incident, the failure was a catastrophic metal fatigue failure as indicated in the pictures. In addition, the crew practiced good situational awareness by having all other employees out of the bight and in the clear.

What can we do to add capacity in the future?

- Utilize best practices by using the pole butt jack to insure that the boom does not see overloading when breaking loose and removing a pole.
- Make discussing "mechanical" and gravity" energies a priority during our tailboard hazard analysis discussions.
- Booms are meant for vertical, in line lifts only without side strain. Do not use the claws to rock the pole back and forth to assist in pulling operation.
- If using the boom to lift the pole, the winch line should not be engaged (do not wind up). This ensures the hydraulic overpressure lockout is providing protection.



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Crew Makeup: Line

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