

# PSC Safety Fax

February 11, 2003



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## Page 2 Weekly Safety Meeting "Hoisting Safety"

If you would rather receive your Safety Fax via E-mail please let us know by sending a request to [psc@pscsafe.com](mailto:psc@pscsafe.com).

The fax is sent in Adobe PDF format, which is free to download.

### OSHA FORM 300A MUST BE POSTED BY FEBRUARY 1, 2003

You must post your 2002 Summary Of Work-Related Injuries And Illnesses form (OSHA Form 300-A) by February 1. It must remain posted in a conspicuous place where notices to employees are customarily posted through April 30, 2003. You do not have to post the Log 300 form itself but you must keep the Log 300 and Summary for five years after the year to which it pertains.

**If you have any questions or concerns please call our office for assistance**

### TEXAS ELECTRICAL COMPANY AGREES TO PAY OSHA PENALTIES OF \$86,800 NUECES ELECTRIC WILL INCREASE ITS SAFETY AND HEALTH EFFORTS

DALLAS -- Nueces Electric Cooperative Inc., headquartered in Robstown, Texas, has agreed to strengthen its safety and health program and pay \$86,800 in penalties for citations issued by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration in the wake of an accident in August that resulted in an employee losing both arms.

"This tragic accident might have been avoided if safety standards had been followed," said Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. "The actions being taken now by Nueces Electric Cooperative demonstrate its commitment to prevent a similar tragedy in the future and OSHA's commitment to protecting workers."

OSHA's Corpus Christi area office began its investigation Aug. 12, 2002, following the injury of a worker who received an electrical shock while installing a transformer from a lift bucket truck. The employee's arms were later amputated. Nueces Electric Cooperative employs about 125 workers.

According to OSHA Corpus Christi Area Director John Giefer, the agency cited the cooperative with nine alleged safety violations including failure to assess workplace hazards, failure to implement an effective health and safety program, failure to ensure employees were adequately trained in working with power transmission lines, failure to enforce the use of personal protective equipment and failure to adequately protect employees from exposure to energized power lines that can result in electrocution. In addition to correcting all the citation items, Nueces has begun an analysis of employee work tasks to identify routine hazards and ensure employees follow established safety guidelines for working around hazardous power lines.

### OSHA News Release

### DALLAS BASED PIPELINE FIRM'S FAILURE TO RESPECT HAZARDS OF POWER LINES LEADS TO OSHA FINES CONTRACTOR FOR GUARDIAN PIPELINE PROJECT IN ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN FINED \$150,000

DALLAS -- Despite years of experience in excavating for pipelines near overhead power lines, Dallas based H.C. Price Co. failed to follow federal safety guidelines for protecting workers, according to citations issued by OSHA. Proposed penalties total \$150,000.

"Safety standards are clear about how work around power lines should be conducted," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. "There is no excuse for ignoring these regulations." OSHA Area Director Charles Shields, North Aurora, Ill., said that OSHA opened an investigation into work being performed by the company on Oct. 1 after receiving information that a worker was paralyzed after contacting a power line, and that one month later another worker received an electrical shock, both at locations on Derby Line Road near Genoa, Ill.

"This company has been inspected by OSHA for various accidents five times over the past decade, including a 1994 case in which four workers in Florida were hospitalized following a crane contacting overhead power lines," Shields said. OSHA's investigation found that H.C. Price Co. employees were unloading materials for use on the Guardian Pipeline Project when the truck boom came in contact with a power line causing one worker to receive an electrical shock. The incident became the fifth known power line contact since the inception of the project in May 2002.

H.C. Price was fined specifically for crane and excavator operation too close to power lines, and for issues involving fall protection, training and maintaining effective accident prevention programs. **OSHA News Release**

## HOISTING SAFETY

Hoisting, if done improperly can present hazards to the operator and other workers in the vicinity. But; if proper precautions and techniques for operation, inspection, maintenance and repair are followed; the risks can be reduced.

Using hoists safely can be broken down into several areas; the most Important being **SAFE OPERATION**.

### **Operators of hoists should be told to:**

- Know and do not exceed the safe load limit of the hoisting equipment
- Check controls to see that the proper reaction results from the operation of a certain control
- Check pendant control cable cuts; kinking; or signs of wear
- Visually check hoist cables for fraying; kinking; crushing; and twisting of the cables between the cable and the drum
- Look at the hoist drum for proper cable alignment; stacking of the cable on the drum; and cable alignment in the drum guides
- Visually inspect the hook for cracks; bending; or distortion; and the safety latch for proper operation
- Do not operate the hoist if not physically fit
- Do not attempt to lengthen or repair the load chain
- Read and follow manufacturer's instructions and all instructions and warnings on the hoist
- Position the hoist directly over the load
- Pull in a straight line so that neither hoist body nor load chain or rope are angled around anything
- After the hook is placed in the lifting ring; apply slight pressure to the hoist to ensure that the lifting ring is seated in the bottom of the hook and that the hook is properly aligned between lifts; check to see that the rope is properly reeved on the drum
- Attach sufficient guide ropes to control the unit being moved
- Check the intended movement path to see that it is clear of people and obstructions and to see if the intended destination is ready to receive the load
- Do not tamper with any part of the hoist
- Check brakes for excessive drift
- Be sure there is proper clearance for movement
- Get positioned on the pendant side of the hoist to get maximum clearance from the load and to prevent entanglement of cables
- Avoid sudden starts; stops or reverses to avoid shock loading
- Raise the load only high enough to avoid obstructions
- Do not hoist loads over workers — wait until area is clear.
- Do not permit the operator or guide rope handlers to become distracted
- Be alert for any variation of hoist operation and any possible malfunction
- Do not leave a load suspended in the air — if a short delay is unavoidable, lock the controls
- Do not allow unqualified personnel to operate hoists
- Never carry anyone on the hood or load
- Do not operate hoist to extreme limits of chain or rope
- Avoid sharp contact between two hoists, between hoist and end post, and between hooks and hoist body
- Never use the hoist rope or chain as a sling
- Never use chain or rope as ground for welding nor touch a live welding electrode to the chain or rope.