

ALASKA FACE Facts

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health-Section of CHEMS
Occupational Injury Prevention Program

Construction Materials Technician Electrocuted After Contacting Power Line at Quarry

On August 14, 2001, an 18-year-old male construction materials technician (the victim) died after contacting an energized power line while operating an all-terrain vehicle. The victim was a quality assurance technician at a rock quarry. The quarry site was also used to process, test, and stockpile materials for the nearby road construction project. At the time of the incident, the victim was riding the all-terrain vehicle for purposes other than assigned duties. While cresting one of several piles of crushed rock, the vehicle was stopped or became stuck in the soft material. Approximately 6 feet above the victim's location was a 14,400-volt power line. The incident was not witnessed, and it was surmised from the evidence that the victim stood on the vehicle's foot pedals. The energized power line contacted his back.

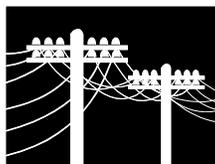
A co-worker discovered the victim and alerted several other workers in the area. The victim was left in place on the vehicle until he could be safely removed from the vehicle and moved away from the broken power line, which had burned in half and was lying near the location. A supervisor called 911. State troopers, electric utility personnel, and emergency medical service personnel were dispatched. The victim was declared dead at the scene.

To view previous FACE reports please visit the Occupational Injury Prevention Program website:

http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation_injury

or

**Call or fax your request to:
907-269-5221 (phone) 907-269-5236 (fax)**



Based on the findings of the investigation, to prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- **Ensure that storage sites for all construction materials are inspected for potential hazards under, at, and above ground levels prior to beginning processing (crushing and storage) operation;**
- **Maintain a minimum 10-foot safety zone near all power lines;**
- **Develop a written comprehensive safety program that includes job hazard analyses;**
- **Ensure all workers are given initial hire safety and health orientation that encompasses their duties and general worksite safety and that they are able to recognize and avoid hazardous situations.**

In addition, employers should:

- **Ensure that workers are knowledgeable of proper emergency response actions when responding to a medical emergency or an injury scene near downed power lines and should never assume downed power lines and surrounding ground are de-energized.**

To receive the latest FACE updates via the Internet please send an email to djilly@health.state.ak.us

