

Worker Injured by Overhead Powerline

POTENTIALLY SERIOUS INCIDENT

Description:

A worker was hydro vacuuming a cattle gate near high voltage overhead powerlines. The worker received a shock when the equipment being used made contact with the overhead powerline.

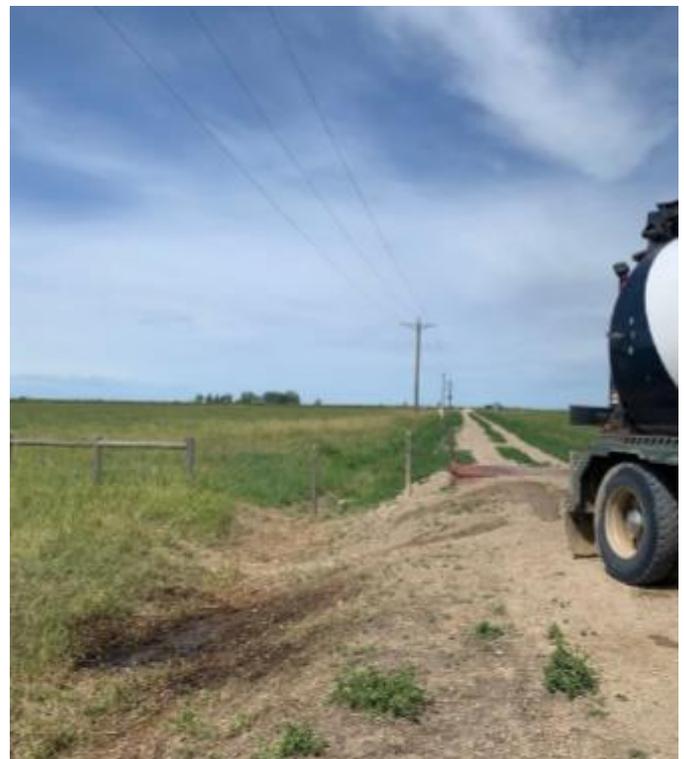
The worker was thrown onto the ground when energy was transferred from the powerline through the equipment. The worker received minor injuries; however, this event could have resulted in more severe injuries or a fatality.

Lessons Learned:

- Field level hazard assessment must include overhead hazards.
- Equipment positioning must maintain a safe approach limit as per the provincial standards, in this case - seven meters, for the powerline.
- Visual supervision, to ensure adequate space while conducting work in proximity to overhead



Safe Hydrovac placement



Burned area where powerline arced

What were the recommendations:

- Review all hazards, associated risks and mitigating controls during work planning and permitting with a focus on hazardous energy that can lead to a potentially serious incident.
- Review the expectations for supervision based on the hazards and risks present.
- Ensure the workplan addresses equipment placement dependent upon site hazards.
- Evaluate hazards when arriving at the worksite by conducting a field level hazard assessment.
- Consult the appropriate provincial OHS regulations for minimum powerline distancing before working near overhead powerlines.

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