



Local No. 104 Occupational Safety Health and Education Trust Fund



Telephone (508) 668-5856
668-5924

22 Old Concord Turnpike • Barrington, NH 03825
900 South Main Street • Mansfield, MA 02048

Fax (508) 668-6158

SAFETY NOTICE

Increase in Incidents, Injuries, and System Events

Through the first two months of 2026 we have seen a significant increase in incidents, injuries, and system outages across our work. A majority of these events have occurred within the past month, with several taking place in just the last few weeks.

These incidents have occurred across multiple types of work including **transmission construction, pole setting operations, and other contractor activity.**

The OSHE Department is **extremely concerned by this recent trend** and felt it was important to immediately bring this to the attention of our members.

Some of these incidents have been reported directly to the OSHE team, while others we have unfortunately learned about indirectly. If an incident occurs on your job, please ensure the OSHE Department is notified when circumstances allow so that accurate information can be gathered and shared.

Several investigations are still ongoing, so we will not be going into full detail on each event at this time. However, we want members to understand the seriousness and scope of what has occurred recently.

Recent Incidents

- Apprentice injured while setting a pole resulting in a crushed/cut finger (*Caught-Between Hazard*)
- Journeyman Lineman suffered two broken bones in the lower leg after slipping while exiting a show-up trailer (*Fall Hazard*)
- Journeyman Lineman hand crushed between two tower bases (*Caught-Between Hazard*)
- Civil contractor broke Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) on a 115kV line causing an outage (*Electrical Hazard*)
- Journeyman Lineman made contact with a 115kV line resulting in injury (*Electrical Hazard*)
- Contractor cutting and kicking a pole caused field phase and center phase contact resulting in a phase-to-phase fault (*Electrical Hazard*)

- Journeyman Lineman electrical contact caused by a slip while setting a pole (*Fall and Electrical Hazard*)
- Contractor sleeve failure while transferring a phase (*Electrical Hazard*)

Seven of these eight incidents have occurred within approximately the last two weeks.

That is not a normal trend and it should get everyone's attention.

OSHA "Focus Four" Hazards

OSHA identifies four major hazard categories responsible for the majority of serious incidents in construction and utility work:

Falls

Slips, trips, and falls.

Struck-By

Suspended loads and falling objects.

Caught-Between

Pinch points and crushing hazards.

Electrical

Electrical contact, arc flash, and system faults.

Each of the incidents listed above falls into one or more of these categories.

Moving Forward

The number and severity of these recent incidents should serve as a reminder that the hazards of this work remain very real.

Staying disciplined in our work practices, maintaining awareness of hazards, and following proper procedures are essential to protecting ourselves and those working alongside us.

Please stay focused on the job, take the time to do the work safely, and continue looking out for your brothers and sisters on the job.

Additional information will be shared as investigations are completed.