Investigating & Documenting Accidental Public Contacts with Power & Communication Utility Facilities UPA1

Power & Communication Utility TRAINING CENTER

May 17-20, 2010
Myrtle Beach, SC

Instructors: Allen L. Clapp, PE, and John B. Dagenhart, PE

The premier seminar on utility accidents

Revised for 2010

About the seminar

When there is an accident, you need to gather and analyze the appropriate data yesterday—before it goes away. You need to quickly

(a) determine whether you met the appropriate requirements and
(b) secure information concerning the actions, qualifications, tools and equipment of other parties.

Regardless of whether you are on the team gathering data and analyzing the accident or you are developing the appropriate litigation strategy, it is vital that you understand what data is required, how to use it, and how to make it be the most effective in litigation. Discussions by engineers who have investigated well over 1000 utility accidents will help you understand effective ways to investigate and document accidents in a manner that will aid and promote effective litigation decisions.

At the end of the seminar, attendees are divided into teams to review a real accident scenario and prepare (a) lists of measurements and other data to be gathered and (b) present arguments to be made for each side, based on information provided in class.

Who should attend

- investigators
- attorneys
- paralegals
- engineers
- risk managers
- claims managers
- claims agents

Important topics

- Responsibilities of utilities
- Responsibilities of others
- How to investigate the scene
- How to make measurements in the field with hand tools
- How to document and control evidence
- How to reconstruct accidents
- How to apply codes and standards
- How to determine whether you met the appropriate requirements
- How to consider the effects of electricity on the body
- OSHA regulations applicable to members fo the public

In addition, you receive

- 2007 National Electrical Safety Code
- NESC Handbook, 6th Edition
- Bound Student Workbook
- Excerpts from Practical Utility Safety
- Exercise/Answer sets
- CEUs and NC PDHs awarded upon successful completion of workshop
- Plus continental breakfasts, complete lunches, & refreshments

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Product availability and prices, and seminar schedules, instructors and prices are subject to change without notice.

3.5 Days — $1545

Day 1

- Case studies: Using codes, regulations and standards
  - Accidents: #1 - Dump truck, #1A - Crane, #1B - Backhoe, #2 - Sailboat
- How to determine compliance with codes and standards
  - NESC vs. NEC and OSHA ▪ Which NESC edition applies
  - Old vs. new NESC clearance system
  - Standard vs. nonstandard clearances
  - Effect of temperature, wind and ice loading on clearances
- Electric shock effects
- Responsibilities of contractor
  - OSHA & state regulations

Day 2

- Case studies cont: Accident #3 - Antenna mounting failure
- Electrical work accidents
  - Electricians ▪ Power line workers ▪ Communication line workers
  - Using the Employee Misconduct defense
- Electrical installations
  - Operation of fuses, breakers, reclosers
- Accident reference information
  - Scaffold accidents ▪ Ladder accidents
  - Over-height vehicle accidents ▪ Farm accidents
  - Off-road vehicle accidents ▪ Tree-trimming & decorating accidents
  - Boating accidents ▪ Aircraft accidents ▪ Substation accidents
- Accident site investigation & analysis tools
  - Vertical clearances above ground
  - Using hand tools for estimations of wire clearances
  - Outdoor exercise in making measurements with hand tools
  - Vertical & horizontal clearances to buildings & other installations
  - Exercise in determining if wire clearances are met

Day 3

- Documenting and preserving evidence
  - Matching evidence marks
  - Photographs vs videos; film vs digital
  - Accident check list
- Case studies cont: Accidents
  - #4 – Roof Replacement, #5 – Antenna Removal, #5A - Gutter installation, #5B - Billboard, and #5C - Painting a metal gas station canopy
- Pole hits
- Improperly guyed structures
- Making effective exhibits for depositions & trials
- Making effective videos
- Maintenance & control of evidence
- Additional useful information
  - Analysis of construction fatalities ▪ Relevant OSHA regulations
  - Relevant ANSI standards ▪ Relevant industry association standards
  - National Safety Council Industrial Data Sheets

Day 4

- Putting it all together
- Investigation
  - Split into groups to investigate for plaintiff and defendants for selected accident scenarios
  - Develop information to get at site ▪ Present to class for feedback
- Summary jury trial
  - Use data found at site (provided to groups after investigation presentations)
  - Develop trial strategy ▪ Plaintiff group presents significant points
  - Defense groups present significant counterpoints
  - Plaintiff group rebuts defense
  - Feedback from class

Note: Adjourn @ 11:00am; plan flights for 1:30pm or later.