

UTILITY CONTACT ACCIDENTS I: Investigating & Litigating Public & Worker Accidents

Revised for
2007 NESC
Earn 2.4CEUs, 24PDHs

The premier seminar on utility accidents for almost 20 years!

May 12-15, & September 8-11, 2008
Myrtle Beach, SC

Instructors: Allen Clapp, John Dagenhart,
Quinn Brackett, H.D. Peterson and Christopher Knopik (Sept. 2007),
Cheryl Bruner (May 2008), Gary Lentz (Sept. 2008)

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 analyze it, and how it should be used most effectively in litigation.

Discussions by engineers, an attorney, a human factors specialist and a burn specialist help you to put allegations and facts into proper perspective.

At the end of the seminar, attendees are divided into teams to review an 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 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
- ◆ How to prepare and use witnesses effectively
- ◆ How to use exhibits effectively

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

NESC® and National Electrical Safety Code® are registered trademarks of the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, Inc. Product availability and prices, and seminar schedules, instructors and prices are subject to change without notice.

3.5 Days — \$1575

Day 1

- ◆ Using applicable requirements of NESC, NEC and OSHA
- ◆ How and when to use NESC "Grandfather Clause"
- ◆ OSHA regulations often violated during worker contacts with utility lines
- ◆ How to use OSHA "employee misconduct" defense criteria to determine responsibility for worker accidents
- ◆ Case Studies: Using codes, regulations, and standards
 - Accidents: #1 - Dump truck, #1A - Crane, #1B - Backhoe and #2 - Sailboat
- ◆ Electrical work accidents
- ◆ Operation of fuses, breakers, reclosers
- ◆ Building wiring accidents
- ◆ Accident #3 - Antenna mounting failure

Day 2

- ◆ Electric shock effects
- ◆ Effects of electrical contact and flash burns on humans
- ◆ Requirements for safety signs
- ◆ Role of Human Factors
- ◆ Accident #4 - Antenna removal
- ◆ Accident #4A - Gutter installations
- ◆ Model State High Voltage Act
- ◆ Accident #4B - Billboard
- ◆ Accident #4C - Painting a metal gas station canopy

Day 3

- ◆ Documenting & preserving evidence
 - Matching evidence marks
 - Measurements
 - Photographs vs. videos
 - Accident check list
 - How to properly measure clearances at accident sites
 - Accident site investigation & analysis tools
 - Pole hits
- ◆ Case Studies continued
 - Scaffold accidents
 - Ladder accidents
 - Over-height vehicle accidents
 - Farm accidents
 - Off-road vehicle accidents
 - Tree-trimming & decorating accidents
 - Aircraft accidents
 - Substation accidents
 - Concrete bull float contact accident
- ◆ Maintenance of appropriate records and control of evidence
- ◆ Use of exhibits in depositions and at trial
- ◆ Preparation of fact witnesses and expert witnesses to effectively aid jurors in understanding the impact of utility standards and procedures on public safety

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.