

# NATF Redacted Operating Experience Report

## Bucket Truck Movement Incident

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## Topic

Bucket Truck Movement Incident

## Description

A four-man crew was tasked with replacing a conductor span and guy wire. The new conductor was pulled into place using a 5" block on a fiber sling attached to the pole. The tension was pulled from the ground using a pickup and a bull line. After the wire was near sag, the lineman moved into position to begin dead ending at the pole. Once in position, he called to the ground help to slack off on the tension. When the wire began to slack off, the bucket began to swing without the safety rigger being depressed, resulting in the lineman being pinched between the back of the bucket and the secondary conductor. As a precaution, the lineman was transported to urgent care for observation. The lineman was treated and released that afternoon with no significant injuries or work restrictions.



## Lessons Learned

1. Unidentified material contacted and damaged the safety mechanism of the iso-grip and caused the unintended movement of the boom.
2. The pivot feature of the double bucket truck allowed the iso-grip on the secondary platform to be exposed to the workspace.
3. Safety mechanisms built into the equipment should be tested daily, at a minimum.
4. Potential hazards must be always be considered when positioning the bucket in the work zone.
5. Workers should familiarize themselves with the locations and functionality of the power take-off dump.

## Corrective Actions

1. Develop and implement a plan that includes exercising the emergency stop buttons daily, verifying that all safety mechanisms are functioning (e.g., interlock trigger), and ensuring bucket controls are outside of the workspace whenever possible.
2. Implement a plan to eliminate the pivoting secondary platform with the manufacturer's replacement components.

## Extent of Condition

The extent of condition was evaluated, and it was determined that other employees are susceptible to being in the bight hazard area and may sustain an injury while working in a bucket. The team determined that those most susceptible are transmission and distribution personnel who, daily, use bucket trucks to conduct their work.