

NATF Redacted Operating Experience Report

Safety – Transmission Tower Climber

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North American Transmission Forum (NATF) operating experience reports highlight positive or negative transmission (reliability or resiliency) experiences worth sharing for learning opportunities or potential trending. The overall goal is to help each other learn without experiencing the same issues first-hand. This sharing originates confidentially within the NATF membership.

Redacted operating experience reports are posted on the NATF public website to allow the NATF and its members to more broadly share information, especially safety-related alerts and learnings, with contractors and other utilities to benefit the industry at large.

The NATF member company that submitted the initial restricted distribution OE report for this topic/event has approved the NATF to issue this redacted OE report.

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Topic

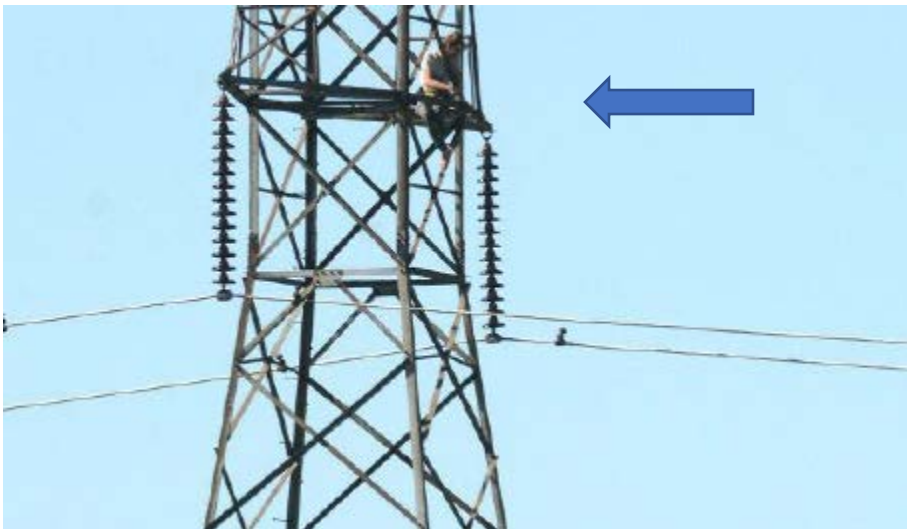
Individual Climbing Tower

Description

The control center received reports from a local utility that an individual had climbed one of our company 230 kV transmission line towers. Personnel were immediately dispatched to the location. Per corporate policy and in discussion with our Reliability Coordinator, the situation was deemed as a “public safety hazard,” which must be mitigated as quickly as possible.

Operators immediately began working on a plan to remove both circuits associated with the 230 kV tower from service. Prior to switching, all affected customers were contacted and made aware of the situation. Local police and our staff were on-site.

Emergency personnel were able to safely secure the individual and remove him from the tower using the fire department’s aerial platform truck.



Lessons Learned

- Communication with customers and emergency personnel was critical in identifying the affected circuit and determining which operational actions to take. Frequent customer contact also helped ensure our company was aware of any changing circumstances and that customers were aware of any actions that our company was undertaking to minimize the outage experienced.
- The advanced level of communication and system experience of the operators and on-shift management staff contributed to the successful handling of this situation.

Actions Taken

- The event was reviewed with control room operators to highlight the actions taken in case of similar events in the future.
- Staff members have reviewed alternate switching actions that would have reduced the impact to customers.

Extent of Condition

N/A