NATF Redacted Operating Experience Report

Employee Falls and Sustains Injury

About NATF Redacted Operating Experience (OE) Reports
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.
Topic
Employee Falls and Sustains Injury

Description
The incident involved an employee falling from a flight of stairs and sustaining a break in the lower leg. While attempting to access a cable tunnel, an employee fell down a flight of concrete stairs breaking their right lower leg when it became entrapped in a void between a stair riser and the handrail. Emergency medical services were dispatched, and the employee was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Lessons Learned
The incident assessment highlighted the entrapment risk. The root cause determined presence of legacy equipment (stair rails and landings) that created the hazard and deficiencies in safety critical lighting. The review also uncovered program deficiencies that did not allow management to prioritize upgrades of the legacy equipment.

Actions Taken
Corrective actions were assigned to:

1. Address deficiencies in safety critical lighting
2. Update legacy installations
3. Increase communications of hazardous situations
4. Create a maintenance program that identifies and prioritizes safety-critical repairs and upgrades

Extent of Condition
A significant extent of condition occurred to identify tunnels with lighting, rail entrapment, and landing issues, as well as any rail entrapment, lighting deficiency at landing, and landing deficiencies.

Reference: NATF-OER-308
Employee Falls and Sustains Injury
During the fall, the Employee’s lower right leg became entrapped between the handrail and a lower concrete stair riser breaking their right lower leg.

Employees lower right leg location after the fall