

NATF Redacted Operating Experience Report

Forklift Incidents

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.

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Topic

Forklift Incidents

Incident 1

Description

While working on top of a transformer to remove lightning arrestor stands, a transformer helper was contacted by a forklift fork and received a large dermal abrasion and contusion injury to his back.



Fig. 1. Forklift Setup.

Lessons Learned

1. Inadequate reinforcement of proper worker behaviors/practices during job preparation and execution of work associated with using this type of forklift.
2. Inadequate actions to mitigate the increased likelihood of error due to the atypical boom movements associated with this telehandler control when compared to other telehandler forklifts used at the company.

Corrective Actions

1. Manager will perform focused observations of foremen to reinforce proper worker behaviors/practices.
2. A request has been made for the vendor not to deliver this model. If this forklift is the only forklift available, the vendor is to provide “just in time” in-service training when forklift is delivered.
3. Apprentice and compliance training will now include hands-on training for forklifts.
4. Communicate the incident to applicable personnel.

Guidance for field personnel:

1. Re-tailboard when personnel performing the task or work method changes.
2. Notify your supervisor of any concerns you have with operating machinery prior to use.
3. Do not operate forklifts near an individual whose back is turned toward you.

Incident 2

Description

A groundman was guiding a forklift operator in the process of removing a recently prefabricated 3-phase bank from a stationary steel pole assembly area. The forklift struck and pinched the groundman’s left index finger and right palm between a forklift fork and crossarm, resulting in surgery and internal stitches.

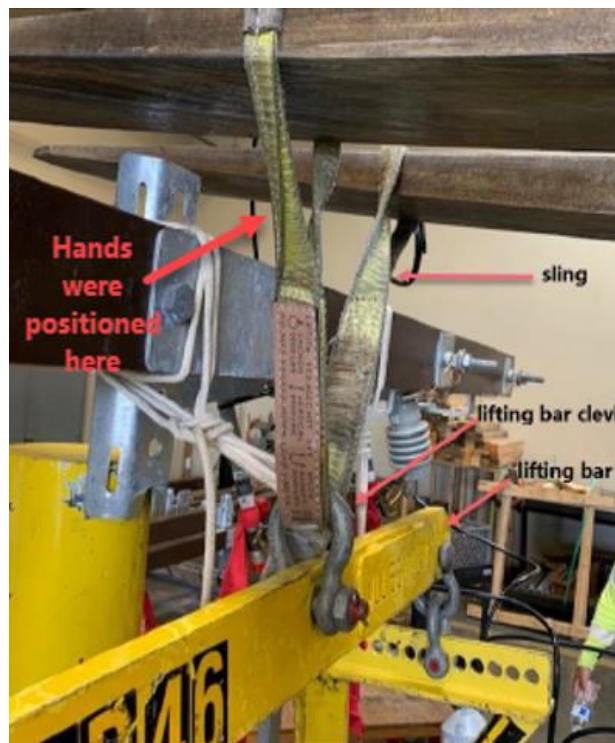


Fig. 1: Configuration of Forklift and 3 phase bank

Lessons Learned

1. The established work methods for transporting 3-phase banks via forklifts at this site were inadequate for preventing injuries.
2. Less-than-adequate worker behaviors/practices during job preparation and execution of work associated with transporting 3-phase banks via forklifts.

Corrective Actions

1. Establish a standardized work method associated with transporting 3-phase banks at all company locations. Determine whether to discontinue using a sling to perform this task.
2. Brief crews on the standardized work method for transporting 3-phase banks.
3. Develop a job hazard analysis for the work method of transporting 3-phase banks to worksites.
4. Implement crew discussions regarding communication expectations between forklift operators and “spotters” and of staying out the danger areas.
5. Conduct focused observations of this task while it is being performed.
6. Communicate the incident to applicable personnel.

Guidance for field personnel:

1. Talk to your supervisor about any work methods or processes that have the potential for injury.
2. Discuss communication methods prior to performing the task.
3. Keep yourself out of the danger areas during forklift operation.

Extent of Condition

Extended conditions exist for the same or similar incidents.