

NATF Redacted Operating Experience Report

Safety – Transmission Tower Climber

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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