INTRODUCTION

On July 15, 2014, Cal/OSHA received a report of an electrocution that occurred at approximately 2:30 p.m., when employee #1 and the boom lift he was in, made contact with an energized high voltage line, located at 6645 W. 86th place, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

The employer is a small painting company, with 9 employees. The employer has been in business for 7 years. The employer was contracted to paint the entire exterior stucco and railings of a four story condominium building, located at 6645 W. 86th place, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

DOSH learned of the accident from the Los Angeles Fire Department on July 15, 2014, at approximately 2:30 p.m. DOSH arrived to the site on July 15, 2014 at approximately 4:15 p.m.
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Employee #1 and the boom lift he was using came close to the 66 kV transmission power line and as a result, he was electrocuted. The electrical system of the boom lift was also damaged.

CONDITIONS AND FACTORS LEADING TO ACCIDENT:

Employee #1 worked as a painter for about 2 years with the company. He along with other employees had been using the boom lift and other equipment to paint the building. Prior to the electrocution, he painted the balcony railings from the boom lift. Other employees also used the boom lift to paint the exterior surfaces of the fourth story building for several days on the week prior to 07/15/2014. They parked the boom lift on the street and maneuvered the boom under the communication cable to reach the first and second balcony. For the highest balcony, they extended the boom between the communication cable and the energized transmission line. Then they extended the boom close to the exterior surface and boomed up to the work location. The vertical distance between the communication cable and the transmission wires was about 19 feet. On the day of the electrocution, employee #1 painted the balcony railings on the fourth level. Somehow he maneuvered the boom within a couple of feet under the energized transmission lines and he was electrocuted. Employee #1 immediate supervisor was Daniel Pinto.

CAUSES AND CONCLUSIONS:
Contributing causal factor:
1. Operating the boom lift closer than the required clearance distance to high voltage lines;
2. Not evaluating and correcting job specific hazard analysis of operating the boom lift in close proximity to high voltage overhead transmission lines; and
3. Not providing employees with specific job hazard training regarding the safe operation and maneuvering of boom lift in close proximity to high voltage overhead lines.

ACCIDENT RELATED-SERIOUS CITATIONS ISSUED:

SERIOUS ACCIDENT RELATED VIOLATIONS:
1509(a):
Prior to and during the course of the investigation, the employer did not effectively implement and maintain the following elements of its written Injury and Illness Prevention Program as required.
Instance #1
Prior to and during the course of the investigation, including but not limited to, on July 15, 2014, the employer did not effectively evaluate and implement any corrective actions to safeguard its affected employees from the electrical hazards involved with operating an aerial device in close proximity to energized overhead power lines such as, but not limited to: identification of actual line voltages, determining location of energized lines relative to the work area(s), determining appropriate minimum line clearances, and determining a safe route to operate the boom which would maintain the required line clearance before allowing its
**State of California**  
**Department of Industrial Relations**  
**Division of Occupational Safety and Health**

*NARRATIVE SUMMARY*

employees to operate the aerial boom lift in close proximity to high voltage lines.

Instance #2

Prior to and during the course of the investigation, including but not limited to, on July 15, 2014, the employer did not ensure that its employees were properly trained in the safe operation of the boom lifts by a qualified person prior to allowing them to operate the aerial boom lift.

Instance #3

Prior to and during the course of the investigation, including but not limited to, on July 15, 2014, the employees entered and exited the boom lift while elevated. The employer did not ensure that its employees complied with the manufacturer’s operating instructions as listed under Fall Hazards section of the manual.

2946(b)(3):

On and before July 15, 2014, employee(s) operated the rental aerial boom lift closer than the minimum required clearance from the energized 66 kV transmission lines. As a result, on or about July 15, 2015, an employee was electrocuted while he operated the aerial boom lift within the prohibited clearance as set forth in Table 2.

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