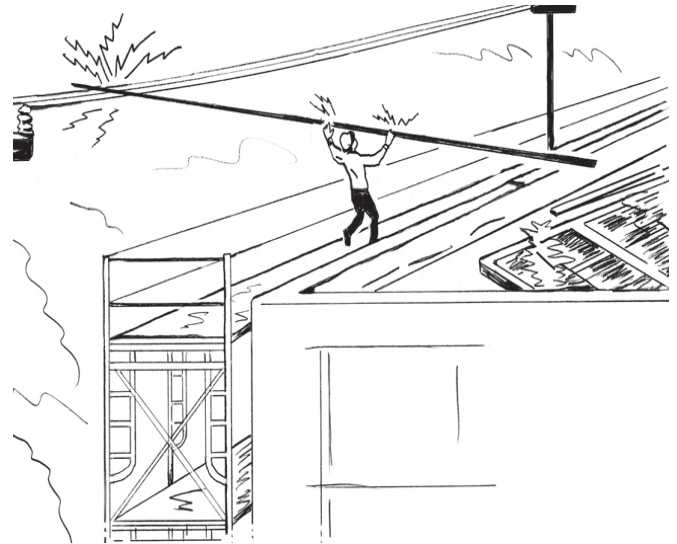


SOLAR ENERGY TECHNICIAN ELECTROCUTED!



A 34-year-old solar energy technician, Juan D.*, died after being injured at work. He was bringing a metal brace to a rooftop work site. Juan was standing on a scaffold and lifting the brace up from the ground with a rope. He grabbed one end of the metal brace when it reached the top of the scaffold. The other end of the brace swung into a nearby high voltage power line. Juan was shocked by the electric current and fell 35 feet to the ground. He died the next day of injuries from the electrocution and fall.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

Juan and his co-workers were not trained about electrical hazards.

Juan was working too close to the high voltage power line.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

Solar energy companies should train workers about the risk of electrocution from high voltage power lines.

Make sure workers, their tools and building materials are a safe distance (at least 10 feet for most work) from high voltage power lines.

The California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program has been investigating work-related deaths since 1992. The goal of the FACE program is to prevent these deaths by informing workers and managers of worksite hazards and how to avoid them.

For a complete report of this case (08CA006) or other cases, and information on the California FACE Program, contact:

California Department of Public Health
Occupational Health Branch (OHB), FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Third Floor, Richmond, CA 94804
OHB phone: (510) 620-5757

CA Relay Service: (800) 735-2929 (hearing/speech impaired)
Please allow at least ten working days to produce this document in an alternate format.

Visit our website at: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb-face

* Not the victim's real name

PLEASE POST

California Department of Public Health
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Third Floor
Richmond, CA 94804

FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation." The purpose of the FACE program is to find problems that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them.

FACE is a public health program run by the California Department of Public Health, Occupational Health Branch, and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
Kimberly Belshé, Secretary
Health and Human Services Agency
Mark B. Horton, MD, MSPH, Director
Department of Public Health
SEPTEMBER 2009

