MNM Fatal 2013-18

Electrical
November 18, 2013 (Kentucky)
Crushed Stone Mine
Contract Electrician Foreman
33 years old
14 years of experience



The victim was received an electrical shock on November 18, 2013. He was working in a motor control building when he contacted an energized conductor inside an electrical enclosure. The victim was transported to a hospital where he died on November 22, 2013, as a result of his injuries.

The accident occurred because the electrical circuit was not deenergized prior to work being performed on it. Additionally, the electrical circuit was not locked out, tagged out, or tested to verify it was de-energized.



Root Cause

Root Cause: The electrical circuit was not de-energized prior to work being performed on it. Additionally, the electrical circuit was not locked out, tagged out, or tested to verify it was de-energized.

Corrective Action: The contractor re-instructed all persons regarding the procedures to be followed when performing work on electrical equipment.

Best Practices

- Ensure that persons are trained on all electrical tests and safety equipment necessary to safely test and ground the circuit where work is to be performed.
- Positively identify the circuit on which work is to be conducted.
- De-energize power and ensure that the circuit is visibly open for circuits being worked on and circuits near the work area.
- Lock and Tag! Place YOUR lock and tag on the disconnecting device.
- Use properly rated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including Arc Flash Protection such as a hood, gloves, shirt, and pants.
- Ensure ALL electrical components in the enclosure are de-energized by testing for voltage using properly rated test equipment.
- Install warning labels on the terminal covers of bottom feed circuit breakers warning that "Bottom terminal lugs remain energized when the circuit breaker is open."