

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Consumer Protection and Safety Division
Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch
Incident Investigation Report**

Report Date: 2/23/2011

Investigator RYAN YAMAMOTO

Incident E 20100317-01

Utility: Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)

Date and Time of the incident: 3/17/2010, 10:01:00 AM

Location of the incident: Intersection of [Redacted] and [Redacted]
Benicia, CA
County Solano

Summary of incident:

[Redacted] a lineman for PG&E was fatally injured when he contacted an energized bushing while working in a junction box. My investigation found PG&E in violation of General Order (GO) 128, Rule 17.1 due to an inadequate safety meeting prior to the PG&E crew commencing work.

Fatality / Injury: There was one fatality

Property damage: None Reported

Utility Facilities: Bahia 1104, 12 kV Circuit

Witnesses:

Name	Title	Phone
[Redacted]	Mgr. Sustainable Distribution Specialist Sr.	[Redacted]
Adeel Babar	PG&E Representative	510-289-4755
Carol S. Carvalho	OSHA Office Technician	
Jonas Ekeroth	OSHA Investigator	925-602-6523

Evidence:

Source	Description
PG&E	Initial Report (Telephone)
PG&E	Electric Incident Report (Initial)
PG&E	Telephone conversation on 3/17/10
PG&E	Telephone conversation on 3/18/10
CPUC	Data requests on 4/8/10, 6/3/10, 6/15/10
PG&E	Electric Incident Report (Final)
PG&E	Data request responses on 5/5/10, 6/7/10, 6/15/10
PG&E	PG&E Serious Incident Communication
CPUC	Follow-up on missing document on 5/14/10
PG&E	E-mail response on 5/17/10
CPUC	Telephone conversations with OSHA
CPUC	Letter to OSHA on 8/17/10
OSHA	Investigation report dated 11/23/10
Sacramento Bee	Article

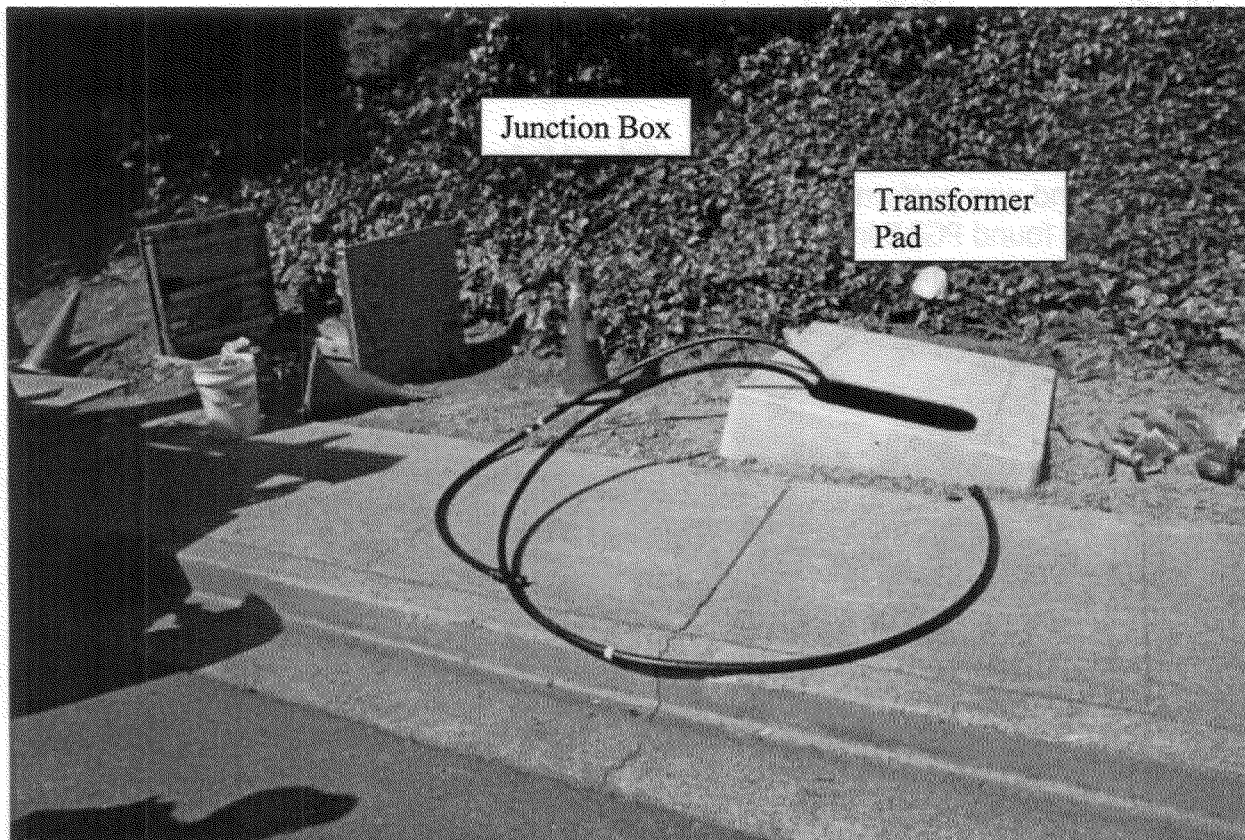
Observations and Findings:

On March 17, 2010, at 1001 hours, a PG&E General Construction Lineman, Redacted, Redacted, with 5 years of experience, was fatally injured when he made contact with an energized bushing while working in a junction box. See Picture 1, titled *Junction Box* shows the junction box where the contact occurred.



Picture 1
Junction Box

[Redacted] was part of a four person crew assigned to install a new pad-mounted 23 kVA dead-front, load break transformer. Three crew members of the crew were on site and in the process of installing two primary conductors between an energized junction box and the new transformer pad. Picture 2, titled *Energized Junction Box* shows an overview of the scene. [Redacted] was inside the energized junction box pushing the cables into the transformer pad, where the transformer had yet to be placed. The other two crew members were located at the transformer pad, receiving the cables. The end of the cables in the junction box had load break elbows installed on them. While inside the energized junction box [Redacted] removed by hand an insulated cap from the junction box and the associated ground wire from an energized bushing. [Redacted] began to install one of the two new load break elbows by hand onto the exposed energized bushing. However, the ground wires of the partially seated load break elbows had not been attached to the ground scheme and were in contact with [Redacted] right leg.



Picture 2
Energized Junction Box

[Redacted] Lead Lineman, was at the driver's side door of the parked PG&E "Power Wagon" truck, [Redacted] Utility Worker, was in the "belly" of the line truck, and [Redacted] Foreman, was at the Calistoga PG&E yard and was about to leave for the jobsite when the incident occurred.

In PG&E's Serious Incident Communication, it was stated that an inadequate tailboard occurred where work site hazards were not identified or discussed, [Redacted]

removed an insulated cap from an energized bushing by hand, and [Redacted] began to install a load break elbow onto an energized bushing by hand.

In PG&E's Serious Incident Communication, it was also stated that they are taking correction actions to ensure this type of incident does not happen again.

Preliminary Statement of Pertinent General Order, Public Utilities Code Requirements, and/or Federal Requirements:

General Order	GO Rule
GO128	Rule 11
GO128	Rule 13
GO128	Rule 17.1
GO128	Rule 32.4
GO128	Rule 36.5

Conclusion

My investigation found that [Redacted] did not follow procedures for the work being performed and was performing work out of the scope of his assignment. Also, my investigation found PG&E in violation of GO 128, Rule 17.1 due to an inadequate safety meeting, not identifying work site hazards, not wearing proper PPE for work being performed, and not following numerous work procedures.