



CASE IV

A truck driver and a millwright were in the process of moving a pump, weighing approximately 2,000 lbs, that was mounted on a skid. They were using a mobile crane, and as the operator was backing up with the crane boom elevated at about a 30-degree angle, the rear wheels of the crane rose off the ground. To compensate for this overbalanced condition, the operator, while proceeding backwards, raised the crane boom to an approximate 60-degree angle. His co-worker at the time was observing the load on the crane boom and did not notice an overhead 440-volt line.

The crane boom became entangled in the overhead 440-volt wires, located approximately 18 ft (5.4 m) above ground. When the operator observed this, he jumped off the operating platform and was not injured. The insulation on the 440-volt line was not cut, so the crane boom did not become energized.

What could have been done to prevent this incident or similar incidents in the future?

Guide and Background Information for Case IV

Explain to the group, if the question comes up, that this man was not injured. However, if the insulation had been cut, this man could have been electrocuted.

Following are other pertinent facts:

- The crane was of proper size to handle the load.
- It was not possible to have the electric current turned off.
- The crane was designed to operate both forward the backward.
- Both employees were experienced and had worked together before. Both worked for the same company.
- The normal procedure in this company was for a man to walk at the head of the mast in order to guide the movement of the crane. In this case, the millwright should have taken over the job.

Possible Solutions for Case IV

1. The millwright or another person should have walked at the head of the mast and made certain all was clear.
2. The job was poorly planned. When the rear wheels of the crane were raised off the ground at the 30-degree angle, this should have been the signal to stop the operation and do some checking. The pump should have been placed on dollies and rolled under the wires since it was quite obvi-



ous that with only 18 ft (5.4 m) of clearance and the boom raised to 60 degrees, there was going to be contact.

Summary

Better job procedures should be instituted and definite procedures established and followed in all operations of this type. A thorough inspection should be made of the area and the route to be followed before any attempt is made to move loads of this nature.