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## Drill Rig OPL Strike

A boom truck hit a power line at around 10 a.m. near Interstate 44 east of Mraz Road. One person has died as a result of the accident -- a contract worker for MoDOT.

“(He was) trying to drill a hole trying to check the thickness of the concrete for a project that’s getting ready to come open in the next few months,” said Missouri Highway Patrol spokesman Dallas Thompson.

When Tepatti raised the boom to drill for a sample, he hit a high-power line and was electrocuted by 12,000 volts.

“He died instantly from the electrocution,” said Fenton Fire Chief Tom Steitz.

The electricity from the line caught the back tires of the truck on fire.

“The force of that actually blew a hole in the concrete, so it’s a tremendous amount of current

that was passing down through there,” Thompson said.

A man working with Tepatti sought shelter. He was not injured, but is very upset about the accident. The two had worked together for several years.

The incident caused the ground wire, which stretches across I-44, to snap. That ground wire plays an important role in distributing electricity to Ameren customers. Traffic was backed up the area as traffic was shut down in both directions while Ameren crews put up a new ground line.

Please look up – this driller would still be alive but sadly was killed immediately yesterday after contacting overhead utility lines. The initial news story below relates that he raised his derrick into the lines, 12,000 volts.

This is not the first company, not the first driller – but can be the last if we follow this one simple rule: **“Look Up & Live”!** This includes being mindful of air knife operations being performed ahead of a drill rig showing up that holes are NEVER cleared under/near power lines.

- The MINIMUM is 10 feet from any overhead power line – the distance increases above 50,000 volts by .4” every 1000 volts above 50kV.