OSHA CROSSTELL 21-02

AFSAS OSHA EVENT # 7871 / OSHA Inspection # 1492137
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (PACAF) | OSHA Region 10
5 February 2021

BLUF: Worker was injured due to exposure of unrestrained hazardous energy during electrical work.

Notice 1 Item 1: (Serious)
CFR(s) Violated: 29 CFR 1926.301(a): Employers shall not issue or permit the use of unsafe hand tools.

(a) Building 6264: On or about September 1, 2020, a crew of employees installed a new electrical panel inside of the building using an allen wrench which was not insulated to tighten wiring, exposing employees to electrical hazards.

Notice 1 Item 2 (Serious)
CFR(s) Violated: 29 CFR 1926.952(a)(2): The employer did not ensure the employee in charge conducted a job briefing that met paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section with the employees involved before they started each job.

(a) Building 6264: On or about September 1, 2020, a working crew of employees installed a new main electrical panel inside of the facility, and at the same time a second working crew of employees installed and connected electrical supply lines outside of the building; but the employer did not ensure the employee in charge conducted a job briefing prior to work starting to ensure all personnel could reasonably expect to recognize and avoid hazards involved, exposing employees to electrical hazards.

Notice 1 Item 3 (Serious)
CFR(s) Violated: 29 CFR 1926.961(b)(4)(ii): Two or more crews working on the same lines or equipment did not coordinate their activities under this section, and with no system operator in charge of the lines or equipment, have separate tags and coordinate de-energizing and reenergizing the lines and equipment with the other crew(s).

(a) Building 6264: On or about September 1, 2020, two crews of employees working on the same electrical system did not coordinate their activities with a system operator in charge of the lines and equipment or performing de-energization prior to installing the electrical supply line to the new main electrical panel for the facility, exposing employees to electrical hazards.

Lessons Learned: When multiple crews are working at the same location to conduct electrical operations, failure to communicate between crews, and using a single controlling supervisor can create deadly consequences. Additionally, when working with electrical systems, wearing the appropriate PPE and using insulated tools can reduce the severity of a possible mishap/injury.

Preventing Reoccurrences: When multiple crews work at the same location, have a single point of contact to determine the flow of the project and ensure the safety of all workers. The Worksite Leader/Supervisor can ensure that required pre-job/tailgate briefings are conducted so that each crew knows the hazards involved, precautions to take, and required coordination to make before taking action such as reenergizing power lines. Additionally, the Worksite Leader/Supervisor ensures proper flow of communication, proper procedures are maintained, and inspect tools and equipment to validate they are right for the job.