

B&A

the forensic engineer

N.E.S.C. – National Electrical Safety Code Violations By Utility Contributes To Electrical Accidents - Amputations

Brosz and Associates was called in as expert witnesses to provide accident reconstruction and model building on a case involving an adolescent who climbed a high voltage streetside regulator station intending to knock out a street lamp.

The unmarked and defectively designed and maintained wood pole platform structure and low horizontal steel platform assembly were easily accessed by means of a loosely hanging cable which provided a hand and foot hold making it readily climbable. The same means had been used by others to gain access to the platform previously. The victim accidentally made contact with a high voltage 14,400 volt conductor on one of the three regulator units and sustained very severe and crippling injuries including amputations as a result.

On site inspections by Brosz and Associates uncovered the facts that, of fifteen regulator stations structures surveyed in the area, fourteen of them were discovered to be in non-compliance with NESC design and maintenance requirements. Eleven NESC violation defects including platform clearances to ground, lack of warning signs, inadequate grounding attachments and structures too easily climbable were apparent.

The matter settled favourably during the trial.

For more information, contact Brosz and Associates at 905-472-6660 or visit our website at www.expertwitness-electric.com.

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4900 cases over the last 35 years.*