

# Scaffold Swings Over to Power Line



An electrician working for a utility company died of electrocution when an aluminum pole he was touching struck a 12,000 volt primary power line. Aluminum and other metals easily conduct electricity.

The aluminum pole was part of a scaffold he was helping to dismantle. It went out of control and fell against the power line.

*Guide ropes or similar controls must be used at all times when handling unwieldy equipment such as scaffolds. Investigation of this case concluded that a rope tied to the top of the scaffold pole would have provided control to lower the pole and prevent it from swinging out onto the power line. Use of non-conductive footwear for work around electrical installations was also recommended. Most importantly, arrangements should be made to have the power shut off.*