

## 5 Electrocutation--Inspection #1471620 Southeast Electric Inc.

A **39 year old male** employee was **electrocuted** when he contacted live wires while troubleshooting a bollard light. The contractor was hired by the Courtyard by Marriott to troubleshoot the bollard lights surrounding the hotel.

The hotel had renovations done in January and during the renovation electrical complications were uncovered. Prior to the renovation, all bollard lights surrounding the building were powered by an electrical panel in the main electrical room. It was determined that at one point the bollard lights were connected to a pole light on the eastern side of the building, but this connection made the circuit breaker trip. The lights on the eastern side of the building were then re-routed to an electrical panel in the storage room next to the kitchen. The lights on the east side apparently still did not work properly. The victim was attempting to troubleshoot the problem for the east side bollard lights when the accident occurred.

The victim had been the only service technician to work on electrical equipment at the hotel for several months. The employer provided him with personal protective equipment and insulated tools to perform all work tasks. An ohm meter and insulated tools used to perform the electrical work were found at the site of the accident; tools also included channel locks, wire cutters and a set of allen wrenches.

The cover was off the bollard light and wires were visible during the inspection. Also, there was a wrench and socket on the ground next to the ohm meter and a pair of gloves balled up lying on the ground next to the light. It appears that the victim did not disconnect the power source prior to working on the light fixture.

The employees are told to never work on equipment that is powered without a hot work permit. In this case a hot work permit was not obtained because it was explained that the equipment did not need to be powered to complete the troubleshooting task.

### **Citation(s) as Originally Issued**

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

### **Citation 1 Item 1a    Type of Violation: Serious                                 **\$4,000****

29 CFR 1910.333(a)(1): Live parts to which an employee was exposed were not de-energized before the employee worked on or near them:

In that a 120-volt bollard light was not de-energized prior to an employee troubleshooting to establish why this section of lights was not working on the East side of the building.

**Citation 1 Item 1b Type of Violation: Serious**

**Grouped**

29 CFR 1910.333(b)(2): While the employee is exposed to contact with live parts of fixed electrical equipment or circuits which have been de-energized, the circuits energizing the parts were not locked out or tagged out or both in accordance with the requirement in this paragraph:

In that when installing canopy lights and troubleshooting the 120-volt bollard lights; breakers in the electrical panels were not locked out. On 04/01/2020 the breaker in the electrical panel that powered the bollard light had not been locked out resulting in fatal injuries to the employee.



