Core Sampler Electrocuted

Three employees were taking earth samples using a core sampling rig with a 22-foot high tower. As they removed the sampling rod, the rod struck a 4160 volt electrical power line directly above the work area. The employee handling the sampling rod and the employee handling a guy wire attached to the sampling rod were electrocuted. A third employee who was also handling the sampling rod was severely shocked.

Investigators determined that had the company followed several safety standards, these fatalities might have been prevented.

Be sure your workers recognize the dangers of overhead power lines. Equipment should not be operated within 10 feet of electrical distribution or transmission lines rated 50 KV or less unless the line has been de-energized and visibly grounded or insulating barriers have been erected to prevent contact with the line.