

# SAFETY NOTES

Department of Consumer & Business Services  
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division  
Salem, OR 97310

## Fatality Report

Accident type ..... Fall  
Industry ..... Cable installation  
Employee job title ..... Cable splicer

### **Accident description**

The cable splicer was attempting to relocate a cable TV service tap to a nearby utility pole in a suburban Portland neighborhood. To gain access to the cable connection terminals, the splicer used an extension hook ladder hung from the overhead cable strand. The ladder was not secured to the cables and became disconnected from the cable strand, causing the splicer to fall to the pavement. The splicer was not wearing a hard-hat at the time of the accident. There were no witnesses to the accident, but shortly after it occurred, a passing motorist noticed the injured worker and alerted neighbors and a construction crew working nearby. Emergency personnel were called to the scene to provide medical attention. The splicer had suffered traumatic head injuries in the fall and died at the scene.



### **Investigation findings**

Investigators determined that the cable splicer was not wearing a hard-hat or a high-visibility vest for working in traffic. Traffic controls were not in place to protect the area where the splicer was working. The worksite had not been evaluated for safety hazards. A safety strap had not connected the ladder to the cable strand. Adequate supervision of the employee at the work site had not been provided by the employer.

### **Applicable standards**

- 29 CFR 1910.268 (e)
- OAR 437-002-0316 (3)(a)
- OAR 437-002-0316 (6)(a)
- OAR 437-001-760 (1)(a)