

EXTENT OF HURRICANE DAMAGE TO FIBER OPTIC CABLES

A hurricane passed over an area where a telecommunications company had miles of pole-mounted fiber optic cables installed. After the hurricane, the company tested the fiber optic cables. The testing showed that large sections of the cables were damaged. However, there were concerns that some of this damage may have existed prior to the hurricane. Evaluations of the physical damage to the cables and comparisons of post hurricane testing results with pre-hurricane testing results were conducted to determine the extent of damage caused by the hurricane.

INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMER DAMAGED

A phase-to-phase fault took place on distribution cables of an ungrounded three phase electrical system of an industrial plant. The fault resulted in damage to a large oil filled transformer. Evaluation of the fault determined that the phase-to-phase fault was the result of damage caused by an undetected single phase to ground fault. Damage to the transformer was determined to be the result of poor coordination among the electrical system protective devices and poor transformer maintenance.

RESIDENTIAL ELECTROCUTION

An individual was electrocuted while using an extension cord outdoors after a rain shower. The cord was connected to a garage receptacle. A damaged extension cord and the lack of a ground fault circuit interrupter protecting the garage receptacle (a code violation) were determined to be the contributing causes of the electrocution.

WELDING CAUSES WAREHOUSE FIRE

A warehouse and its contents of stored furniture were damaged by a fire while renovations to the warehouse building were being conducted. The fire was determined to have been caused by hot slag falling onto furniture in the warehouse while arc welding was being conducted on the metal roof of the warehouse building.