



Hazard Recognition Bulletin from Carl Potter, CSP / Tulsa, OK / 3/18/2009

What Happened?

First, I was told that nobody was injured. A dry cutting concrete saw is going to cost this Texas company some serious money. While cutting down a concrete electric transmission pole in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a spark set fire to dry grass, which led to the complete destruction of the crane holding the pole. The pole was at the stage where it had no transmission wires attached. Tulsa and surrounding counties are under a burn ban due to drought conditions. Each day the Tulsa area has experienced significant grass fires along the highways.

Lesson Learned?

What would you identify as the hazard that caused this damage?

- a. Dry grass
- b. Dry cutting concrete saw
- c. Lack of a fire watch
- d. Not seeing the big picture

This is one of the points of my Hazard Recognition and Control Workshop. Did this crew see the potential consequences of the job? My guess is, no. When you are trying to complete a job, it is easy to dismiss something as small as a spark from a saw blade. Pre-job briefings should have identified the possibility of this fire, but it is a common mistake. It's hard to see this stuff unless you are trained to "see" hazards – especially from the big picture perspective.

Use this to *spark* your next safety discussion. Please feel free to pass this on to anyone you think would benefit.

Help prevent injuries and damage – call: 800-259-6209
to book a **Hazard Recognition and Control Workshop**