

Institute for Safety in Powerline Construction



## ***Safety Meeting Topics***

**Safe Bucket Truck Operation**

# Introduction

- If a bucket truck is misused or a failure occurs, an accident can happen. However, certain steps can be taken to minimize the possibility of a bucket truck related accident:
  1. Inspecting equipment
  2. Planning jobs with safety in mind
  3. Knowing and following safety procedures

# Session Objectives

- After this training you should be able to:
  - Conduct a basic pre-use inspection of a typical bucket truck
  - Describe the safety issues associated with setting up a bucket truck at a job site
  - Explain methods used to protect personnel from shock hazards

# Pre-Use Inspections

- A bucket truck crew typically performs a visual and operational inspection of a unit at the beginning of each shift



# Pre-Use Inspections

- During the inspection, the condition of the boom, the bucket and the truck's hydraulic system should be checked



# Pre-Use Inspections

- Check the boom for any fractures or 'crazing' in the fiberglass:



- Damage to the boom's fiberglass could mean that the boom's rated lift capacity or its insulating ability has been compromised

Image Credit: OSHA

# Pre-Use Inspections

- Check hydraulic hoses. Worn high-pressure hoses may rupture causing equipment failure and/or injury to near-by personnel



# Pre-Use Inspections

## **OSHA Regulation: Snap-Shot:**

### **1910.269 (p) Mechanical equipment. (as of January, 2007)**

#### **(1) General requirements.**

- (i) The critical safety components of mechanical elevating and rotating equipment shall receive a thorough visual inspection before use on each shift.



### **1910.269 (q)(3)(x) (as of April, 2007):**

Before employees are elevated into the work position, all controls, (ground level and bucket) shall be checked to determine that they are in proper working condition.