

Reaching Across The Live Bus

He was warned about the wires that morning. He reached over them that afternoon.

10 MIN

NFPA 70E Art. 130 — Approach Boundaries · Art. 110 — Training

New Jersey FACE 91NJ009

WHAT HAPPENED

1991 · New Jersey · Electrical contractor in a foundry · 21-year-old helper

A small electrical contractor was running surveillance camera cable through the ceiling structure of a foundry-equipment factory. That morning the owner walked the job with his two helpers and specifically pointed out the exposed 480-volt bus wires feeding the overhead cranes. Working from a scissor lift, the crew ran cable over two crane beams without incident. At the third beam, roof height differences put the two workers out of sight of each other. The 21-year-old apparently climbed onto the lift's guardrail to reach across the I-beam and contacted the energized bus. Burn marks were found on his chest and right elbow.

WHY IT HAPPENED
The 480-volt crane bus was left energized, unguarded, and unlocked while workers reached directly across it. A verbal warning was the only control in place.

WHAT THE STANDARD REQUIRES

- Pointing at a hazard is not a control. De-energize it, guard it, or barricade it.
- Exposed energized parts within reach require insulating barriers, blankets, or line hose.
- Establish and enforce the limited and restricted approach boundaries.
- Never work out of sight of your partner when either of you is near exposed energized parts.

TALK ABOUT IT — DO NOT SKIP THIS PART

1. Where on this site is there exposed energized equipment we walk past every day?
2. What would it actually take to de-energize the crane bus — have we ever asked?
3. Have you climbed a lift rail to reach something? What made that feel acceptable?

WHAT WE WILL DO DIFFERENTLY HERE

ATTENDANCE

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE