



Operational Alerts inform Signal Mutual Members of serious incidents within the Mutual that resulted in permanent disability, death, or a significant near miss. If you have similar operations, please share this Operational Alert and have a safety discussion with operation managers, supervisors, equipment operators, and all affected employees. It is imperative that management review their operational controls at all levels to mitigate similar hazardous conditions and/or acts.

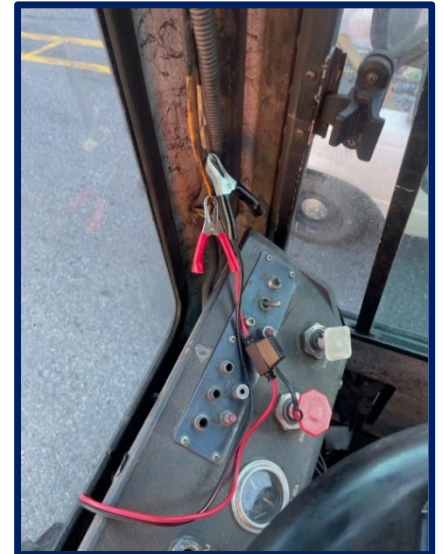
INCIDENT: DANGEROUS ELECTRICAL MODIFICATIONS

SUMMARY OF RECENT INCIDENT

A Utility Tractor (UTR) was discovered with an unauthorized electrical modification consisting of alligator clips tapped into the truck's 12 volt electrical system. The worker was using this unauthorized and dangerous modification to power an electrical device. Beyond exposing the driver to risk of electrical shock, there was risk of fire and damage to the truck's electrical, operational, and safety systems. It also created a distraction that could result in safety issues.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Periodic inspections must occur in conjunction with maintenance and service.
 - Inspect brakes, signals, horn, seatbelt, etc. for proper function.
 - Ensure all lights and gauges on the dash control panel are operational.
 - Listen and look for any unusual noises or concerns.
- Proper inspection, training, procedures, and reinforcement of safe work practices are essential for ensuring the safety of everyone on site. See Signal's website www.signalmutual.com for Powered Industrial Truck program and audit guidance, as well as OSHAs provided examples which can be found at: <https://www.osha.gov/training/library/powered-industrial-trucks/checklist-0>
- Remind drivers to report any damage and ensure drivers know how to contact maintenance and/or operations to report a concern or event of an emergency.
- Always watch for any tool or piece of equipment that shows modification or misuse and report to supervisors for corrective action.
- Do not alter or bypass equipment electrical or safety systems, and do not use equipment that could impact your safety or put you in harms way. These are in place to keep you protected.
- Practice your Stop Work Authority when equipment, conditions, or operations are in question. Report observations and deficiencies to your supervisor and do not proceed until the safety concern is addressed.



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