

The Virgin Islands Consortium

W.A.P.A. Lineman Sustains Burns After Coming Into Contact With Energized Line

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ST. THOMAS -- Interim Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Julio Rhymer Sr. said Friday that a lineman was injured while performing work in the Hull Bay area here, according to a W.A.P.A. press release.

The lineman was part of a line department crew working to transfer primary electric lines from an old pole to a newly planted pole in Estate St. Peter when he apparently came in contact with an energized line. Today's work was part of a scheduled electric service interruption on a portion of Feeder 7A.

“Despite our best efforts to protect the men and women of WAPA who work at our power plants and on the electrical transmission and distribution systems, accidents such as today’s are stark reminders of the dangers inherent in the jobs performed by our dedicated team each day,” Mr. Rhymer said.

“I am grateful for the efficient medical care that was rendered at the scene by EMS and the medical attention he has received at the Roy L. Schneider Hospital since being transported there by ambulance shortly after the accident. The lineman suffered extensive injuries to both of his hands. I ask the community and the WAPA family to join me in offering prayers for his speedy recover,” he added.

An internal investigation by the W.A.P.A.'s safety department continues into the circumstances that led to today’s accident, according to the release.

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