

RUNAWAY CRANE WRECKS POWER LINE FOR DAY

Entire Job Shut Down for
Nearly Twelve Hours
From 4 A. M.

An accident which snapped the power transmission line leading from San Bernardino, California, to Boulder dam and Boulder City shortly before dawn yesterday morning resulted in the closing down of work on the Boulder canyon for nearly 12 hours.

Boulder dam and the dam community were totally without electricity yesterday from 4:02 a. m. until 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The electricity was shut-off when a huge crane in use at the steel yard of Six Companies Inc., hit one of two transmission lines causing it to fall across the other line. The two lines immediately short-circuited and burned in two, shutting off all power from San Bernardino to Boulder. The huge steel tower holding the wires was crumpled in the crash and fell to the ground.

ELECTRICIANS OF Six Companies Inc., repaired the damage, which allowed swing shift to report to work late in the afternoon.

The accident was caused by the huge crane running amuck. A locomotive belonging to the contracting firm was attempting to couple onto the crane, and when the coupling failed, the crane plunged on down the track and its projecting boom crashed into the transmission line. No one was on the crane at the time of the accident, and officials said today that if anyone had been on the huge piece of machinery he would have been immediately electrocuted. The line carries 88,000 volts, H. O. Watts, of the power company, said this morning.

DAY SHIFT of Six Companies Inc., with the exception of men engaged in cooling processes, Babcock and Wilcox company men, employees of the Eichleay Engineering corporation, and many government employees were unable to work yesterday because of the accident.

H. O. Watts said this morning that the line had been expertly repaired, and was in good working order now.

Boulder City residents suffered considerable damage due to the power shut-off yesterday when residents were unable to cook because of the fact that the greater percentage of government homes are equipped with electric ranges.