

**§710. Accidents investigated; reports**

If an accident occurs upon the premises of a public utility or directly or indirectly arises from or is connected with its maintenance or operation, the following provisions apply. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

**1. Accidents resulting in loss of life.** If the accident results in the loss of human life, the public utility shall file a report of the accident in accordance with subsection 4 and the commission shall cause an investigation of the accident to be made immediately.

[PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

**2. Accidents resulting in personal injury or property damage.** If the accident results in personal injury or damage to property, the public utility shall file a report of the accident in accordance with subsection 4 and the commission may investigate if in its judgment the public interest requires it.

[PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

**3. Investigations.** Investigations shall be made in compliance with the following provisions:

A. An investigation shall be held in the locality of the accident unless, for the greater convenience of those concerned, the commission orders it to be held at some other place. An investigation may adjourn from place to place as may be necessary and convenient. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

B. The commission shall seasonably notify the public utility of the time and place of investigations. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

C. The public utility shall have an opportunity to be heard during the investigation. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

D. The commission may make such order or recommendation based on its investigation as in its judgment seems just and reasonable. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

[PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

**4. Filing accident reports.** Every public utility shall file reports of accidents described in subsections 1 and 2 with the commission. Accident reports must be filed in compliance with the commission's rules and in the manner and form designated by the commission. Accidents resulting in loss of human life must be reported immediately by telephone, facsimile machine or electronic media in a manner designated by the commission followed by a detailed written report.

[PL 1995, c. 225, §6 (AMD).]

**5. Reports not admitted as evidence in an action.** No order or recommendation of the commission or accident report filed with the commission may be admitted as evidence in any action for damages based on or arising out of the loss of life or injury to person or property referred to in this section.

[PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A6 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 225, §6 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.