

... From Dusk Till Dawn



Ordinary people think that the night begins at midnight or when the sun goes down. The night operation brigade of “Svetoservis – Sochi Ltd” starts their work at 21.00.

We have decided to the brigade during their night shift, but at first we go together to the control room to get tasks for the shift. The brigade consists of three members: a senior electrical engineer, an electrician and the driver of a car lift. Each of them knows what, where and why they should do.

However, before going to their site they have to drive to the petrol station and fill the tank with a fuel; they will have to work all night long, and such a huge machine with a tower and a cradle can not be filled with a fuel everywhere because the massive dimensions do not allow to use any petrol station.

We are on the way, and the trained eye of the senior electrical engineer catches in the dark a lamp that doesn't work. The machine stops, the supports are set, the tower with the cradle rises. Although the brigade members have received their task they cannot pass by the noticed problem and check what is wrong.

- At night we can carry out only emergency work that are not connected with the voltage disconnection, - says Semen Smirnov. – These are the replacement of bulbs, fuses, automatic circuit breakers.

The brigade also conducts diagnostics of emergency cases where it is necessary to disconnect voltage to fix the problem (a cable break, replacement of the throttle and others). In such case the information is submitted to the dispatcher at the end of the shift, and he enters it into the plan for the day brigade that works when the voltage is disconnected.

- Along with unserious faults that are easy to fix serious accidents sometimes happen when a car crashes into a power transmission line support towers - Semen Smirnov continues to explain with a sincere concern about their work. – Sometimes we find unauthorized connections to the power networks, and even cases of marauding that involve pedestrians: they open the hatch and pull something – as a result, there is no light. And he may even be killed with an electric shock. And we also have to rip off a countless number of different stickers from the lighting support towers!

Meanwhile, the tower has been raised again in the darkness of the night. We can see only unclear movements in the cradle during a few minutes.

- Come on! – says the voice from above, and Semen switches on the voltages. The lamp which was lifeless a few minutes ago illuminates the light and the street is filled with coziness. There is such a job to illuminate the cities. And these guys cope with it perfectly.

(Based on materials from the corporate newspaper Svetskaya Zhizn #3 (24), 2013)