

SUBJECT: ELECTRICAL EMERGENCIES**SECTION:** 301.16**REVISED:** AUGUST 17, 2003**PAGE(S):** 3

PURPOSE

To provide safe guidelines for the handling of electrical emergency operations.

POLICY

When it has been determined that an electrical emergency exists these guidelines have been established.

PROCEDURE

- A. Determine the type of electrical problem and request the appropriate power company to respond, if needed.
- B. Give dispatcher proper location of incident (pole number, etc).
- C. Set up operational perimeter. Request Police Department assistance when necessary. (The rule of thumb for establishing electrical incident operational perimeter is to maintain distance of one complete span of wires on either side of fallen wires.)
- D. Park apparatus outside of operational perimeter.

SAFETY

- A. Do not fight electrical fires unless de-energized or life is in danger. Protect exposures.
- B. Be careful when spotting equipment and hose lines. Electrical lines may fall on apparatus, personnel or hose lines.
- C. Do not walk under transformers as they may contain P.C.B.s or burning oil. (Remember transformers can and do explode.)
- D. Wear protective clothing.
- E. Do not open shutters on vaults. This may cause an explosion due to accumulation of flammable gases.
- F. Keep bystanders clear of hazardous area.
- G. Stay clear of manhole covers over electrical vaults – they have been known to blow off and fly as far as one hundred fifty feet.
- H. No personnel should enter underground electrical vaults except to effect rescue and then only when advised by power company personnel on the scene that the vault has been de-energized.

- I. When entering underground electrical vault (de-energized) to effect rescue, personnel must be in full protective clothing, including a manned life line.
- J. Toxic gas may be formed from electrical fires in vaults take necessary precautions (SCBA).
- K. Do not open pole mounted switches - they are for power company personnel only.
- L. Do not assume that telephone/TV cable wires are not hot - they may be in contact with hot wires.
- M. Do not use water to control pole top fires unless de-energized by the power company. Protect exposures.
- N. Avoid standing in puddles of run-off water during fire fighting operations when energized electrical equipment may be involved or nearby.
- O. Assume that all wires down are HOT and act accordingly.
- P. Do not use non-rated equipment such as pike poles, non-rated cutters and non-rated ropes to handle downed wires.

WIRES DOWN

- A. Be careful when spotting hose lines and apparatus additional lines may fall.
- B. Establish a secure area (operational perimeter); include fences, vehicles, guard rails, railroad tracks and puddles of water which may be electrically energized.
- C. Standby and keep the public away from the scene until wires are de-energized by power company personnel.

ELECTRICAL FIRE CONTROL

- A. Power pole fire - do not extinguish with water unless life is threatened or major structural component of power pole is threatened or directed to by power company personnel.
- B. Electrical fires are best handled by shutting down power source.
- C. CO2 and dry chemical are the best extinguishing agent for electrical fires.
- D. If structure fire involves electrical service or wiring, the power to the building should be shut off.
- E. Electrical vault fires should be extinguished only after they have been de-energized.
- F. Power Company personnel shall be notified anytime electrical service is shut off by fire department personnel.

VEHICLE RESCUE

- A. Uninjured or mildly injured victims should stay in vehicle until power to downed lines can be secured by power company personnel.
 - 1. Victim should be encouraged to stay in the car.
 - 2. If the victim must leave the vehicle, advised them to jump clear of the vehicle as far as possible before coming in contact with the ground.

3. Once clear of the vehicle, inform them not to touch the vehicle again - Don't turn around and close the door.
 4. Inform them not to help someone else still in the vehicle. This will put both of them in the path to ground.
- B. If it is necessary to care for injured patient or remove patient from vehicle prior to power company arrival, proceed with the proper safety clothing (full turnout gear and face shield or goggles) and electrical equipment (dielectrically rated clamp sticks, cutters, etc.), the wire can be pulled free of the vehicle.
- C. Do not use pike poles, non-rated ropes and/or non-rated equipment to handle downed lines during vehicle rescues.