

ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Purpose:

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

Guidelines:

- A. Determine the type of electrical problem and request the appropriate power company (Cinergy or Owen Electric) to respond, if needed.
- B. Give the dispatcher the proper location of the incident (pole number, etc.).
- C. Set up an operational perimeter. Request law enforcement assistance when necessary (the rule of thumb for establishing electrical incident operational perimeters is to maintain a distance of a complete span of wires on either side of the fallen wires).
- D. Park apparatus outside of the 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 PCB'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 150 feet.
- H. No personnel shall 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 an underground electrical vault (de-energized) to effect rescue, personnel must be in full PPE, with SCBA and a manned lifeline.
- J. Toxic gas may be formed from electrical fires in vaults, take necessary precautions.
- K. Do not open pole-mounted switches – they are for power company personnel only.
- L. Do not assume that telephone or cable TV wires are not hot – they may be in contact with high voltage 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 firefighting 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. Members should not move wires unless necessary to rescue victims, and then only after all safety precautions have been observed.
- B. Be careful when spotting hose lines and apparatus additional lines may fall.
- C. Establish a secure area (operational perimeter); include fences, vehicles, guardrails and puddles of water, which may be electrically energized.
- D. 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 the power source.
- C. CO2 and dry chemical are the best extinguishing agents for electrical fires.
- D. If a structure fire involves electrical service or wiring, the power to the building should be shut off.
- E. Electrical panel fires should be extinguished only after they have been de-energized.
- F. The power company should be notified anytime personnel shut off electrical service to a structure.

Vehicle Rescue:

- A. Uninjured or mildly injured victims should stay in the vehicle until power company personnel can secure power to downed lines.
- B. If it is necessary to care for an injured patient or remove a patient from vehicle prior to power company arrival, proceed with proper safety clothing (full PPE) and electrical equipment (dialectically 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 rescue.