



POLICY MANUAL

Emergency Operations Policy

Electrical Hazards

Revised: 10-05-05

Code: 1 – 2 – 16

Book Chapter Subject

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16.0 Purpose: Provide guidelines for securing downed or sagging power lines

16.1 Scope: All Fire/EMS Personnel

16.2 GUIDELINE - ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

Whenever electrical hazards are present or suspected, the unit that has discovered the hazard or the Incident Commander shall notify Dispatch of the hazard via radio. Dispatch shall immediately communicate a positive notification of the hazard to all units assigned to the incident (i.e.; All units on the “incident name” be advised power lines are down). All units on scene or responding to the incident shall reply to Dispatch’s notification by saying “Engine 31 (unit identifier) copy, power lines down.”

During multiple alarm incidents, each Division/Group Supervisor shall be responsible for their assigned unit’s accountability of acknowledgement.

At the scene of fallen electrical lines, a danger zone shall be established and a guard posted to ensure the safety of the public and firefighters. The area shall be flagged with black and yellow hazard flagging for a minimum radius of twenty-five feet (25’).

If possible, the power company should deactivate lines in the fire area that may endanger persons. ASSUME ALL WIRES ARE ENERGIZED until advised by the power company that it is safe. Deactivated transmission and distribution lines may continue to pose a hazard due to induction.

In the event that a power line drops onto a vehicle occupied by one or more persons, they should stay in the vehicle until the power company arrives and removes the source of danger. If the vehicle is on fire or threatened by fire, the individuals should jump clear of the vehicle (in one leap with feet together).

16.3 SURVIVAL TIPS

- Do not direct straight stream water into high-tension lines.
- Be aware that smoke may become charged and conduct the electrical current to the ground.
- Do not operate heavy equipment under power lines.
- Do not drive with long antennas under power lines.
- Do not direct retardant into power lines nor stand near power lines during retardant drops.
- Do not fuel vehicles under power lines.



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- Do not park under power lines during fire situations.
- Phone and television cables may be energized if contact has been made with electrical wires.