

5.7 Electrical Response



City of Oak Point Department of Public Safety Fire Department

TITLE: Electrical Response

SECTION/TOPIC: General Operations

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These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

1.0 PURPOSE

Purpose:

This procedure provides guidelines regarding response to downed electrical lines and other electrical emergencies. The hazardous nature of an incident of this type requires everyone at the incident to use extra caution to protect themselves and the public from contact with energized electrical lines.

2.0 SCOPE

This SOP/SOG pertains to all personnel in this organization.

3.0 POLICY/GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

Procedures:

Wires Down:

- Always establish a perimeter or danger zone(s) around the hazardous area. Establish a danger zone of at least one span in either direction from downed power wires. Control access to the danger zone.
- Keep at least one member outside the hazardous area at all times to monitor the situation.
- Use caution due to potential sudden reapplication or re-energizing of AC voltage after wires were disconnected through safety/fusing circuits. Power system

automatic “retries” are computer programmed and will occur in the first few minutes after an electrical short is detected. Retries generally cease after 3 or 4 attempts.

- Wires may be energized and yet remain motionless and silent. Remain minimum 8’ distance from all objects suspected of being energized with undetermined AC voltages.
- A broken wire end has “memory” and may recoil towards you, attempting to return to its’ original coiled shape when initially on a wire spool. Remain clear of the area that a severed end of a wire may move through when energized or broken free.
- When electrical lines are down and the area has NOT been secured, fire personnel will remain on the scene until relieved by local Police Services, and/or the Power Company.

Transformer Fire on a Pole or Pole Fire:

- Do not attempt fire control or extinguish the fire while there is unshielded AC voltage present.
- Wait until a Power Company representative is on the scene and can de-energize the wires of the burning pole and/or transformer before extinguishing the fire.

Electric Transfer Station (Electric Sub-station)

- Do not attempt fire control or extinguish the fire while there is unshielded AC voltage present.
- Do not enter a sub-station without a representative from the Power Company.
- Fire service personnel shall wear full protective clothing when entering a sub-station and shall be under the direction of a Power Company representative.
- If equipment in the sub-station is on fire, confirm that the Power Company representative has de-energized the equipment before you attempt fire control.

General

- Coserv and Oncor utility poles generally use double-domed insulators to support primary wires.
- Texas-New Mexico (TNMP) utility poles use single-domed insulators to support primary wires.
- Electric meters often have the utility company name.
- Companies that service the district are: Coserv, TNMP, and Oncor.