

POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Electrical Emergencies

Standard Operating Guideline

Purpose:

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

Procedure:

General Response – Wires Down

- Arriving unit will perform size-up and report conditions to dispatch and request resources as needed, generally JCP&L.
- Report to dispatch shall include location of utility pole as well as pole number if possible.
- Fire personnel will isolate the area and deny entry due to the potential life-safety issues.
- Department personnel should not move, touch, or cut wires down. Electrocutation hazard is present at all wires down incidents, regardless of type of utility.
- In all instances, Fire Police will be the primary personnel performing traffic control duties. In the event that a roadway(s) is impacted, Department personnel shall perform traffic control duties in an acceptable and safe manner. Personnel shall utilize vehicles to assist in blocking roadways, wherever practical.
- Attempted rescue of person or persons in contact with a high voltage line shall not be performed until JCP&L has eliminated any and all electrical hazards.
- Personnel responding to wires down incidents should not leave the scene until relieved by qualified personnel from either fire department, law enforcement or utility company personnel.

Response to Wires Down with Active Fire

- A fire involving wires down carries a significant potential of electrocution to personnel if an attack is initiated. The incident commander or dispatch should transmit a safety alert message of wires down danger to all responding personnel.
- Suppression efforts should not be initiated near the downed wires.
- Fire suppression efforts may be directed at threatened exposures which are at a safe distance from the hot zone. A hot zone being that area that presents an electrocution hazard to personnel and citizens.

Response to Wires Down During Significant Storm Events

- During times of significant storm activity or disaster, it is normal for the Department to receive numerous reports of multiple lines down. In those instances, the following guidelines should be followed:
 - Standard Operating Guidelines shall be followed when possible.
 - All reports of wires down need to be investigated and priority of the incident (relative to the area activity) should be relayed to headquarters.
 - Permissible units for the response to a wires down incident may be expanded to include administrative, utility or carry-all vehicles. Staffing of units shall be a minimum of two (2) personnel. The vehicles should be equipped with a mobile radio, flares and flashlights.