

	Standard Operating Guideline – West Fargo Fire Department		09.002
	Subject: Powerlines, Substations and Transformers		
	Section: Misc		
	Date Authorized: 12/1/2019	Authorized by:	
Date Reviewed:	Chief Daniel Fuller		

Intent

The intent of this guideline is to establish standard procedures for response to downed powerlines

References

Definitions

Guideline

1. Electricity will travel any conductive path it can as it seeks a ground. A direct path to ground can occur when contact is made between something energized and a portion of your body such as your hand, arm, head, or other body part. An indirect path to ground occurs when you are holding something or touching an object that is in contact with something energized. This could include tools or other equipment you may be holding or when touching a fence, vehicle, or other object that may be in contact with something energized
2. Consider all downed powerlines as energized until confirmed to not to be live by the power company
 - a. Keep all personnel, bystanders, and apparatus 100 feet away from the line (the span of one power pole to another)
 - b. Block roadways/sidewalks/driveways that are affected
 - c. Ask all residents in the area to stay inside
3. Request the utility company responsible for the line to respond to the scene
 - a. For lines north of 13th Ave, the responsible utility is Excel Energy
 - b. For lines south of 13th Ave, the responsible utility is Cass County Electric
4. For powerlines that have fallen on a vehicle, determine if the vehicle is occupied or not
 - a. For un-occupied vehicles, await the arrival of the responsible utility company
 - b. For occupied vehicles, make voice or cell phone contact with the occupants
 - i. Reassure them to keep from panicking
 - ii. Advise them not to leave the vehicle
 - iii. In cases where the occupant must leave because of fire or medical emergency, have them jump clear of the vehicle and not touch the vehicle or ground at the same time and then walk away from the vehicle using very small steps
5. For power pole fires
 - a. Consider all poles as energized
 - b. Keep apparatus one span away (100 ft) from the pole on fire
 - c. Block access to the area

Powerlines, Substations, and Transformers	Misc	09.001
---	------	---------------

	Standard Operating Guideline – West Fargo Fire Department		09.002
	Subject: Powerlines, Substations and Transformers		
	Section: Misc		
	Date Authorized: 12/1/2019	Authorized by:	
Date Reviewed:	Chief Daniel Fuller		

- d. Once the utility has confirmed the lines are dead, extinguish the fire

- 6. For substation, vaults, manholes and transformer fires
 - a. Be aware of the explosion hazard
 - b. Keep apparatus one span (100 ft) away from the fire
 - c. Keep all responders upwind from the fire
 - d. Protect exposures
 - e. Do not make entry until the utility company has verified the equipment involved is dead
 - f. In certain cases, a class C extinguishing system maybe present and have been deployed. Use SCBA and a four-gas meter with oxygen sensor while making entry

Powerlines, Substations, and Transformers	Misc	09.001
---	------	---------------