

Subject:	RESPONSE TO ELECTRICAL FIRES AND HAZARDS
Section:	PPG# 4400.23
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	7/1/98

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1 It shall be the policy of Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 to identify the hazards, and employ practices to prevent electric shock when fire suppression or rescue activities must be performed near energized electrical lines.
- 1.2 All members shall be trained to identify potential hazards, and electrical hazards, and the means to avoid contact with electrical energized equipment or utility service.
- 1.3 Members shall not cut the electrical drip loop providing power to a structure or pull the electrical meter.
- 1.4 Members shall not work or position equipment above any power line. At an incident, the incident Commander shall not allow anyone but qualified utility workers to work above any power line
- 1.5 Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 will identify with Puget Sound Energy the power transmission line hazards in the District's jurisdiction
 - 1.5.1 When fire service equipment and members must work near energized lines rated 50 KV or above the minimum working distance between the lines and any part of the equipment shall be ten feet plus 4 in for each 1 KV and will follow the recommendations of Puget Sound Energy.
 - 1.5.2 For electrical lines rated 50 KVA or below, the minimum clearance shall be at ten feet.
 - 1.5.3 For low voltage lines (operating under 750 volts or less) all activities and work shall be performed to prevent members from contacting the energized lines.
- 1.6 All downed or sagging power lines should be treated as if they were live.
 - 1.6.1 The Incident Commander shall advise CapCom to contact Puget Sound Energy to assist in verifying that lines are not a hazard or to cut power.
 - 1.6.2 Members and bystanders shall be isolated at least one span of poles in each direction.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 The Incident Commander shall identify potential electrical hazards and request the Puget Sound Energy to respond and disconnect energized electrical lines.
- 2.2 The Assistant Chief of Operations will identify electrical hazards in our jurisdiction and incorporate them into the Districts training program.

3.0 GUIDELINES

- 3.1 Fires involving small appliances may be extinguished by:
 - (a) Eliminating the source of power to the appliance.
 - (b) Extinguishing the burning material (usually wiring insulation) using the proper extinguisher.
 - (c) Allowing the fire to burn out while protecting exposures and only after the supply of power has been eliminated.
- 3.2 Fires involving above and below grade transformers, regulators, switch gear when confined to the unit alone and not endangering surrounding structures should be allowed to burn.
- 3.3 All private and other emergency vehicles should be positioned away from any overhead wires.
- 3.4 If the structure is on fire, avoid directing water on any electrical equipment or conductor.
- 3.5 Attempt rescue only when patient is in immediate danger if patient is in danger:
 - (a) Remove the wire from the victim, or
 - (b) Remove the victim from the wire.
- 3.6 Driver/Operators of apparatus will not position apparatus under electrical transmission lines without first identifying the electrical hazard area.
- 3.7 Members will not raise ground ladders until the command "check the overhead" is given and followed to establish the existence of an electrical hazard.
- 3.8 The Incident Commander will be informed as to electrical hazards in the structure or working area.

4.0 REFERENCES

WAC 296-305-06007