



Kemah Fire Department

"Dedicated To Serve And Protect"

Kemah Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

Subject: Downed Power Lines and Pole Fires

Effective Date: TBD

Authorized By: Chief Brent Hahn

I. Purpose:

This procedure will establish a standard approach and response to the report of power lines down and Pole Fires. Power lines can come in contact with the ground as a result of storm related activity, fire, or vehicles striking power poles. In all cases, the potential for electrical shock/electrocution and secondary fire must be considered.

II. Policy:

SOPs for Downed Power Lines and Pole Fires will include:

- Response for Downed Power Lines
- Response for Pole Fires
- Response to Sub-station, Transformer, Electrical Vault, and Manhole
- Power Line Facts

III. Procedure:

Response for Downed Power Lines

- Request utility company to respond
- Consider all down wires as "energized."
- Place apparatus away from "down lines and power poles."
- If possible locate both ends of downed wires.
- Secure the area/deny entry.
- Periods of high activity; company officer may choose to leave one (1) crew member on-scene with a radio to wait for utility company

Response for Pole Fires

- Request utility company to respond
- Consider all down wires as "energized."
- Place apparatus away from "down lines and power poles."
- Unless life or property is in danger let fire burn until utility company arrival
- Protect exposures
- Secure the area/deny entry

Response to Sub-station, Transformer, Electrical Vault, and Manhole

- Request utility company to respond
- Clear the area
- Be aware of explosion potential
- Place apparatus in a safe location away from overhead power lines
- Protect exposures
- Do not make entry until above electrical equipment has been de-energized.

Power Line Facts

- Lock out of down power lines generally occurs after three (3) operations or attempts to re-energize. Even though you may hear this, do not assume the line is dead or de-energized. Downed lines must always be considered energized with potentially lethal current.
- Lines can reset and become "hot" or "energized" again by manual operation of a switch, by automatic reclosing methods (either method from short or long distances away), by induction where a de-energized line can become hot if it's near an energized line, or through backfeed conditions.
- Power line tends to have "Reel Memory" and may curl back or roll on itself when down.
- Use caution when spraying water on or around energized electrical equipment. Hose streams conduct current! Never spray directly into the power lines. Use a fog spray at the base of the pole. Your primary responsibility is to protect the surrounding area.
- PCB hazards: Smoke potentially fatal; avoid and contain pools of oil around transformers.