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.