


Title:	Downed Power Lines and Pole Fires			
Section:	400 Fire Operations			
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Effective Date:	January 1, 2024	Reviewed Date:		
Authorized By:	Fox River Fire District Chiefs			

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to establish a standard approach and response to the report of downed power lines and pole fires.

B. SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all incident responses involving downed power lines, pole fires and responses to substations.

C. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

There are no special terms or definitions in this guideline.

D. GUIDELINE

1) Response for downed power lines

- a) Request utility company to respond.
- b) Consider all down power lines as energized.
- c) Place apparatus away from down lines and utility poles
- d) If possible, locate both ends of downed wires
- e) Secure/deny entry to the area. Ensure barriers or alerting techniques such as fire line tape are used to keep the scene secure.
- f) Firefighters should be kept away from downed power lines at a distance equal to at least one span between poles until the line is de-energized.
- g) Evaluate life safety considerations and the need for staff to remain on scene.
- h) If it is determined that the line involved is a communication line (data or telephone), have dispatch advise the appropriate utility company. The communication line may be coiled and set off to the side if it is determined that the communications line is not in contact with any power line or potential electrical energy. Be advised all communication lines carry electrical current and appropriate caution shall be taken.

3) Response for pole fires

- a) Request utility company to respond

- b) Consider all down power lines as energized
- c) Place apparatus away from down lines and utility poles
- d) Unless life or property is in danger let fire burn until utility company arrival
- e) Protect exposures
- f) Secure the area and deny entry

4) Response to Sub-station fires

- a) Request utility company to respond
- b) Consider all down power lines as energized
- c) Place apparatus away from down lines and utility poles
- e) Clear the area
- f) Protect exposures
- g) Do not make entry until electrical equipment has been de-energized

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