

LAKWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG NUMBER: 301.11	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
DATE IMPLEMENTED: JULY 11, 2017 DATE REVISED:	TITLE: ELECTRICAL EMERGENCIES

PURPOSE:

These provisions are promulgated and designed to provide a structured approach for the safe response to and operation on the scene of incidents involving electrical emergencies.

SCOPE:

This guideline shall apply to all Department personnel when responding to and operating on the scene of an electrical emergency.

GENERAL:

1. Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) is to be notified immediately for all electrical emergencies that pose an immediate or imminent threat to life and property.
2. Electricity seeks its lowest level or ground and will travel any path as it seeks a ground.
3. A direct path to ground will occur when a portion of an individual's body such as, but not limited to, a hand, arm, leg or head touches something energized, when a tool or other equipment touches something energized, or when an object is touched (vehicle, fence or other object) that is in contact with something energized.
4. Hose streams conduct current and water shall never be directed into power lines.
5. Personnel are to use caution during placement of ground ladders as well as aerial devices to avoid coming into close proximity or contact with electrical lines and equipment.

DOWNDOWN WIRES:

1. When responding to situations involving downed wires, hanging wires, downed trees and wires, wires in tress, etc., a safety zone shall be established (consisting of at least one (1) conductor span in each direction) and secured with fire tape, flares, cones, barricades, etc. No one, including fire personnel, is to enter this zone until the situation has been declared safe by JCP&L personnel.
2. Place apparatus and emergency vehicles a safe distance away from downed wires.

3. All wires (electric, telephone, cable, etc.), whether intact or down, and all objects in contact with such wires, are to be considered energized until determined otherwise by utility personnel.
4. Special attention and caution shall be exercised during times of stormy conditions involving high winds as downed electrical wires may come in contact with telephone and/or cable wires in areas that may not be readily apparent to emergency responders.
5. Dead or de-energized power lines can become “hot” or reenergized at any time through backfeed, induction, etc.
6. Power lines may curl back or roll on themselves.
7. Do not touch, drag hoselines over, or rest a ladder against any wire.
8. Do not cut any wire.
9. Do not attempt to move a fallen wire.
10. Downed power lines will energize the ground around them and caution shall be exercised when utilizing hoselines in the vicinity of electrical wires and equipment.

DOWNED WIRES ON VEHICLES:

1. Place apparatus and emergency vehicles a safe distance away from downed wires.
2. Never touch a vehicle or attempt to remove occupants from it while it is in contact with a wire.
3. Instruct occupants to remain inside the vehicle.
4. Should occupants be forced to leave the vehicle (due to fire or other threat to life), instruct them to open the door, NOT STEP OUT, but jump free of the vehicle without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time.

ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION, TRANSFORMER, VAULT, MANHOLE FIRES:

1. Do not attempt to fight a fire involving JCP&L electrical equipment in vaults, sub-stations, and manholes, switching stations or on utility poles; let it burn and protect exposures.
2. Place apparatus and emergency vehicles a safe distance away from the affected area.
3. Clear the area, establish a safety zone and await the arrival of JCP&L.
4. Be aware of an explosion potential and establish your safety zone accordingly.

OTHER:

1. Fire personnel are not to leave the scene of an electrical emergency until the arrival of JCP&L personnel.
2. If a particular situation overwhelms available resources (such as may be the case during periods of high activity – storms, high winds, etc.), the Incident Commander shall prioritize the incidents in a manner consistent with his/her resources and shall, as soon as it is practical,

ensure that all unattended emergency scenes are secured. The Incident Commander may choose to leave one (1) member with a portable radio on the scene to await the arrival of utility personnel.

3. Extreme caution is to be used when attempting to shut off power in flooded cellars. If in doubt, leave the power on.
4. In situations involving overheated ballasts, faulty switches, receptacles, etc., an attempt shall be made to isolate and turn off the affected circuit. If the circuit can't be isolated, the main breaker should be shut off whenever working on any mentioned electrical devices. If it is impractical to leave the circuit off, wire nuts shall be installed on the affected wires while the power is off, and then the circuit is to be turned back on.
5. **Under no condition** is an electrical meter to be pulled by fire personnel.
6. If a life-threatening situation requires the extinguishment of an electrical fire and the equipment cannot immediately be de-energized, water should be avoided and dry chemical should be used.
7. Decisions of the Incident Commander shall be based upon the safety of fire personnel and the safety of the general public.