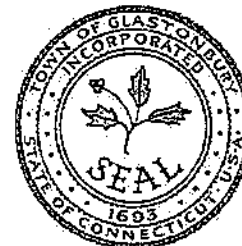




**GLASTONBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**



SOG NUMBER: FDO-511 ISSUED DATE: 12-14-11 EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-15-12
REVISION #: 1 REVISED DATE: 01-11-16 EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-11-16
CATEGORY: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS – GENERAL
SUB- CATEGORY: FIRE GROUND OPERATIONS
SUBJECT: RESPONDING TO MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS INVOLVING A UTILITY POLE
RELATED GUIDELINES: FDO-107, FDO-509, HZT-202

Section I -- Introduction

A. Objective

To provide a common operating guideline for use in the response to a motor vehicle accident involving a utility pole and possible downed electrical power lines and any other related electrical equipment hazards.

B. Applicability

This applies to response to a motor vehicle accident where electrical power lines, including cable television lines, telephone lines or related electrical equipment may be involved.

C. References

Eversource Presentation
The United Illuminating Company's – First Responder Beware Electrical Safety Trainer's Guide

Section II -- General

Upon arrival at the scene of any vehicle accident involving electrical equipment or wires, address all potential hazards before reacting to the accident itself. There may be downed wires or wires hanging low to the ground that are energized. These wires may energize other objects they are in contact with such as guard rails, fences, or telephone, cable television wires, as well as the painting/stripping used in roadways. Also, be aware that overhead conductors could fall at any time due to the result of the accident.

Remain alert. As in any type of an emergency, do not develop a false sense of security because the wire and/or electrical equipment involved appear harmless.

Section III – Establish a Safety Zone

A safety zone should extend a minimum of two full span lengths of wire (2 telephone poles) in each direction beyond the downed wire. When establishing a safety zone keep the following items in mind:

- Stresses may be placed on poles adjacent to the downed wires causing them to break and fall
- Wires can slip through insulators and sag to the ground in adjacent spans of wires
- Always be on the alert for conductive materials that may be in contact with the fallen wires such as metal fences, guard rails and metal buildings. The safety zone will have to be increased to include them.
- Continue to secure the area until relieved by a utility representative or other authorized person.
- Be aware that when a body is in contact with a wire it may be energized. Do not touch the injured individual until the wire has been cleared from the body.

If there appears to be a possibility of a fire, deploy a charged hose line(s). Ensure that the nozzle is set to a fog position. Do **NOT** utilize a straight stream nozzle. Utilizing the charged hose line is for life safety protection **ONLY**. If there are not enough personnel on scene to accomplish establishing a safety zone, solicit the assistance of any bystanders in the area to help maintain a safety zone.

Section IV – Notifying the Utility Company

Eversource has developed a guideline known as **Priority Level System for Emergency Response Involving Electrical Hazards**. The priority level is broken down into three levels:

1. Priority Level One (Life Threatening)
 - a. A "Level 1" exists in situations where a person or persons cannot be rescued until the electrical company either shuts off the power or disconnects a serve line at the scene. This is a life-threatening situation.
 - i. Example 1: A person (conscious/unconscious) is trapped in a vehicle with a fallen power line lying across it. Injuries are unknown.
 - ii. Example 2: A structure is on fire and a person or persons are trapped. The electric service to the structure is energized limiting appropriate action such as raising a ladder, etc.
2. Priority Level Two (Hindering Operations)
 - a. A "Level 2" exists in a situation where an electrical hazard exists that is hindering operations, but is not life threatening.
 - i. Example 1: A structure is on fire, it has been confirmed that no one is inside. The electric service to the structure is energized and the fire department is unable to cut power at the fuse/circuit breaker box.
 - ii. Example 2: A structure fire is in the process of being extinguished. Service wires to the building are hindering or obstructing full access for overhaul and other related operations.
3. Priority Level Three (Electrical Hazard Exists – Non-Threatening)
 - a. A "Level 3" exists in situations where an electrical hazard exists but is in a location non-threatening or of no immediate threat to life or property.
 - i. Example 1: Wires down or transformer fire. Police or fire standing by securing the scene with an appropriate safety zone.

Section V – Removal of individual(s) from a vehicle:

1. Always be cautious while approaching a vehicle.
2. Remember, that the vehicle and anything attached to it (such as a camper or trailer) may be energized at hazardous voltage.

3. Upon approaching a vehicle, no Fire Department personnel should get any closer than ten feet.
 - a. This provides a margin of safety in case an occupant(s) suddenly opens a vehicle door.
4. With a calm, authoritative voice, gain the attention of the vehicle's occupants.
5. Tell them that they are safe as long as they remain in the vehicle and that help is on the way.
6. Be careful not to frighten the vehicle's occupant(s) any more than they already are.
7. It is important to gain the vehicle's occupant(s) confidence and trust.
8. Stay with the vehicle's occupant(s) until the emergency situation is over. If you were to leave for a short period of time the vehicle's occupant(s) might feel that the emergency is over or they may once again become frightened and attempt to get out of the vehicle.
9. In dire emergencies and under ideal conditions the driver could be instructed to start the vehicle and carefully drive either forward or backwards, away from the wires.
10. Be aware that the wire may weld itself to the vehicle's body or become lodged behind a bumper or door handle.
11. If it is imperative to have the occupant(s) exit a vehicle in contact with a power line (example – car is on fire) they must not contact the ground and any part of the vehicle at the same time.
12. This is an extremely dangerous maneuver because secure footing is unavailable.
13. Coach the vehicle's occupant(s) to jump as far as possible away from the vehicle to avoid any contact and /or falling back onto the vehicle.
14. Once on the ground, advise the vehicle's occupant(s) to use SMALL shuffling steps to move a safe distance away from the vehicle.

Section VI – Approval:

Fire Chief



Date of Approval:

1/11/16