



GLASTONBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES



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REVISION #: 1 REVISED DATE: 01-11-16 EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-11-16
CATEGORY: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS – GENERAL
SUB- CATEGORY: FIRE GROUND OPERATIONS
SUBJECT: POLE AND POLE-MOUNTED EQUIPMENT FIRES
RELATED GUIDELINES: FDO-107, FDO-509

Section I – Introduction

A. Objective

To provide a common operating guideline to be use when responding to a fire involving a utility pole, utility pole-mounted equipment and/or other related electrical equipment hazards.

B. Applicability

This applies to any response in which the utility pole, transformer(s) attached to the utility pole, wires or any other 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

Most pole fires are caused by lightning, equipment failure or insulator breakdown (broken or contaminated by salt spray or air pollution).

Section III – Fire underneath or adjacent to a utility pole NOT involving any downed wire(s)

1. For fires such as grass or small brush fires use standard firefighting practices to extinguish the fire.
2. If the base of the utility pole is deeply charred, notify Eversource and request that a representative from the utility company inspects the pole(s).

Section IV – Fire underneath or adjacent to a utility pole involving a downed utility wire(s)

1. The Glastonbury Fire Department will **NOT** extinguish a fire that is underneath or adjacent to a utility pole involving a down utility wire(s)
2. The Glastonbury Fire Department will only apply an extinguish agent to protect the surrounding areas that are NOT impacted by the downed utility wires(s)
3. When applying water as an extinguishing agent, the firefighter will utilize a fog pattern in an effort to keep the area in check and to
4. The use of a smooth bore or straight stream pattern is prohibited.

Section V – Fire near the top of a utility pole

1. For a fire near the top of a utility pole or is involving pole-mounted electrical equipment, such as a transformer and it appears that the fire will NOT endanger life or property, let the fire burn.
2. Most pole-mounted equipment contains oil.
3. If the equipment is still energized, little can be done to extinguish the fire, as the oil will continue to re-ignite.
4. In this situation the FD should establish a safety zone as outline in SOG: FOD-509 “Downed Utility Wires and notify Eversource Priority Level System for Emergency Response Involving Electrical Hazards.
 - a. Priority Level One (Life Threatening)
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Example 1: A person (conscious/unconscious) is trapped in a vehicle with a fallen power line lying across it. Injuries are unknown.
 - iii. 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.
 - b. Priority Level Two (Hindering Operations)
 - i. A “Level 2” exists in a situation where an electrical hazard exists that is hindering operations, but is not life threatening.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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.
 - c. Priority Level Three (Electrical Hazard Exists – Non-Threatening)
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Example 1: Wires down or transformer fire. Police or fire standing by securing the scene with an appropriate safety zone.

***** CAUTION: Never use a straight stream. Although the firefighter manning the hose line may be far enough away to be safe, the distances between the wires or from a wire to a ground source are not sufficient to prevent a flash over (arc) caused by a straight stream. Thus, you may burn down the wire and nothing would be gained. *****

SOG NUMBER: FDO - 512

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PAGE 3

Section VI - Approval:

Fire Chief

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