

# **CLIO AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **OPERATING GUIDELINE**

### **TITLE: ELECTRICAL INCIDENTS**

#### **REFERENCES:**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER & INDUSTRY SERVICES SAFETY STANDARDS  
PART 74  
CAFD RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, AND GUIDELINES

THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF ELECTRICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE ARE: LIFESAVING OPERATIONS AND PREVENTION OF FURTHER DESTRUCTION OF PERSONAL AND PUBLIC PROPERTY.

SAFETY OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL SHALL BE A PRIMARY CONCERN FOR ALL OPERATIONS.

CLIO AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ARE TO ESTABLISH INCIDENT COMMAND, PERFORM SIZE-UP, SECURE THE SCENE, AND WAIT FOR CONSUMERS ENERGY PERSONNEL TO RESPOND TO THE INCIDENT IF THERE ARE WIRES AND OR EQUIPMENT ON THE GROUND CAUSING IMENENT DANGER TO CITIZENS.

#### **APPARATUS**

- Initial response shall be: 1 Apparatus (dependent on particular situation)

#### **PERSONNEL**

- Initial response should be: A full compliment, based on seating for apparatus.
- Minimum response shall be: 1 Officer, 1 Driver, 3 Fire Fighters
- If the minimum response is not available, a Second Alarm shall be called.

#### **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT**

- All personnel responding to the incident shall wear a complete set of turnout gear. Turnouts shall consist of; Helmet, Hood, Bunker Coat, Bunker Pants, Boots, and Gloves.

#### **TRAINING**

- All personnel on the scene shall have completed the department Energized High Voltage Equipment Identification training.

#### **INCIDENT COMMAND**

- The Incident Command System shall be utilized to the extent warranted by the nature of the incident.

## MEMBER ACCOUNTABILITY

- All members will use the Department Accountability System as directed..

## OPERATIONS

### 1. PROCEDURE

- a. Determine the type of electrical problem (Transmission, Primary, Secondary, Service – Residential, Commercial – Wires sparking, wires down, equipment down, etc) and request Consumers Energy Company to respond, if needed.
- b. Give Central Dispatch an accurate location of the incident and the size-up of the incident.
- c. Set up an operational perimeter (One Span in either direction from the incident).
- d. Park the apparatus outside of the operational perimeter

### 2. SAFETY

- a. Do not use water to control electrical fires on poles, or primary voltage equipment, unless Consumers Energy has de-energized the line or equipment. Protect exposures.
- b. Be careful when spotting equipment and hose lines. Electrical lines may fall on apparatus, personnel or hose lines.
- c. Do not walk under power lines that have trees on them or where poles are leaning or broken.
- d. Keep bystanders clear of the hazardous area.
- e. Do not assume that TV Cable wires or Telephone wires are not energized – they may be in contact with electrical wires.
- f. Assume that all wires down are ENERGIZED and act accordingly.

### 3. WIRES DOWN

- a. Members **must not** move Transmission or Primary wires unless a Consumers Energy employee is on scene and has determined the wires to be not energized.
- b. When spotting apparatus, be aware that additional wires may fall.
- c. Establish a secure area (operational perimeter – one span in either direction from the incident); include fences, vehicles, guard rails, railroad tracks and puddles of water which may be electrically energized.
- d. Standby and keep the public away from the scene until the scene is turned over to a representative of Consumers Energy.

### 4. CUTTING WIRES

- a. CAFD personnel are not to cut electrical wires and should only handle 120 volt service wires if trained to do so.

### 5. ELECTRICAL FIRE CONTROL

- a. Pole fire – do not extinguish with water, unless necessary to rescue victims (must be an immanent life threatening situation)
- b. Electrical fires are best handled by turning off the power source.
- c. CO2 and dry chemical are the best extinguishing agents for electrical fires.
- d. If a structure fire involves electrical service or wiring, the power to the building should be turned off.
- e. Electrical fires in commercial structures with service voltages of 208, 240, 277, 480 volts, present **extreme** danger to firefighters. Use extra caution.

6. VEHICLE RESCUE

- a. Uninjured or mildly injured victims should stay in the vehicle until power to downed lines can be secured and/or turned off by Consumers Energy personnel.
- b. **Do not use** a pike pole, non-rated ropes and/or non-rated equipment to handle transmission or primary lines.