

Checklist:

What To Do In Emergencies Involving Electric Facilities

There are many things a first responder must remember at an emergency site where electric facilities are involved. This checklist will help you respond in these emergencies.

Substation Emergency

- Allow only authorized personnel in the area.
- Never operate switches.
- Provide fire suppression to surrounding areas.

Pole Fires

- Secure the area and establish a safety zone.
- For fires near the base of the pole, extinguish with spray, not a stream.
- Beware of wires; they may burn off and fall.
- If the fire is at the top of the pole or is on pole-mounted equipment and it appears that the fire will not endanger life or property, let it burn. Once electrical equipment is involved in a fire, it is not salvageable.
- Remember: most pole-mounted equipment contains pressurized oil and will continue to reignite if the equipment is still energized.

Downed Wires

- Always assume wires are energized.
- Never move or cut the wires.

Car Pole Accidents With Downed Wires

- Instruct drivers and passengers to stay in their vehicle until utility workers arrive.
- Be cautious – electricity can spread through the ground in a circle around the point of contact.
- If necessary, instruct drivers and passengers to jump from the vehicle, keeping feet together, and shuffle away to safety.

Contacts With Overhead Equipment

- Approach with caution – assume that the electric facilities are still energized.
- If a person is still in contact with the electric facility, **STAY AWAY!**

Structure Fires

- Never** cut electric service wires.
- Never** pull electric meters.

Rescuing Pets And Kites

- If poles or wires are involved, do not attempt a rescue.

Call WPS in all emergency situations involving electric facilities, at **800-450-7240**.

