

Power Line Safety

- Upon arrival at every incident scene, **survey the area for overhead power lines, poles, and equipment.**
- **Park emergency vehicles as far from overhead lines as possible.**
- **Keep yourself and your equipment AT LEAST 10 feet away from all power lines,** including the service drops that run from utility poles to buildings. Higher voltages require greater clearances.
- **Have a spotter monitor the placement of ladders near power lines** to ensure they remain a safe distance away when fully extended.
- **Never use a solid water stream** to fight fires near power lines.

Be prepared for the utility vehicle to arrive, and make sure there is a clear path to the incident site for utility personnel.

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Substation & Transformer Emergencies

- Burning electrical equipment is already ruined and will be replaced. **The safest course of action is to LET IT BURN.**
- **Never attempt to enter a substation without utility personnel present.** Contact the local electric utility and wait for its personnel to arrive.
- **Evacuate the area** and keep everyone AT LEAST 300 feet away from the substation.
- Electrical equipment contains oil and other hazardous materials. **Be alert for explosions and toxic smoke.**
- **Protect area exposures** to prevent fire from spreading.
- **If an equipment fire must be suppressed,** utility personnel and the incident commander will tell you how to proceed.

Downed Power Lines/Vehicle Contact

Secure the area. **Keep yourself and the public AT LEAST 30 feet away** from fallen power lines. Transmission lines from large towers require a distance of 100 feet. If a vehicle is involved, take these steps:

- 1. DO NOT enter, approach, or touch the vehicle.**
- 2. Call the local electric utility.**
- 3. Instruct the occupant(s) to drive the vehicle away from the line** if they can do so safely.
- 4. If the vehicle cannot be safely moved, instruct the occupant(s) to STAY INSIDE until utility personnel give the all clear.** Staying in the vehicle is their best protection against electric shock and injury.
- 5. If the occupants are in imminent danger from fire or other hazards, stay away and instruct them to jump clear** without contacting the vehicle and the ground at the same time. They must land with feet together and shuffle away with small steps.
- 6. Demonstrate the proper procedure from a distance.**
- 7. If anyone in the vehicle is injured, disabled, or otherwise unable to safely exit the vehicle,** your incident commander will tell you how to proceed.

**For emergencies, call 911 and Westar Energy
Customer Contact Center at 800-383-1183**

www.westarsafety.com/firstresponders

