TOLEDO FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

C-104 Wires Down

Emergency Manual

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Policy/Procedure

1. When responding on a call for wires down fire personnel shall first size up the situation and call for Edison through fire dispatch. Size up information shall include, if available, the pole number, street address to nearest residence, closest cross street, and the type of problem (transformer fire, wires arcing, etc.)

2. Fire apparatus shall be placed in a location, which is deemed to be safe in the event that additional energized wires come detached from the poles.

3. If the downed wire lies in the “Public Right of Way”, fire personnel shall remain on scene and maintain scene safety until a Toledo Edison crew arrives.

- A “Public Right of Way” is defined as “any property from the edge of the sidewalk farthest from the street to the same edge of the sidewalk on the other side of the street”.

4. In the event that no sidewalk exists, a distance of five feet from the street will determine the appropriate area. If the downed wire is located in an alley than the fence line will constitute the “Public Right of Way”.

5. After fire personnel have been on the scene for two hours, dispatch may be notified to have a relief crew sent. This procedure will also apply for a downed wire that affects any “City of Toledo” property; any wire that is on fire or arcing; or any wire, which is in contact with a fence.

6. If the Department is low on available rigs (determined by the dispatch office) and scene integrity must be maintained, fire personnel shall stand-by in-service. If you are dispatched from the scene to another incident Dispatch shall send another unit, when available. The next unit shall stand-by until Edison arrives or until two hours pass. Another relief crew will then be sent.

7. If a downed wire lies outside of the “Public Right of Way” and there is no fire or arcing taking place or is not an unsafe condition, fire personnel may leave the scene after completing Items 8 and 9 below. If it is an unusual situation or scene, the fire officer should run it past their Battalion Chief prior to leaving the scene.

8. Every attempt should be made to create two concentric Hot/Warm zones with the scene tape.

9. If the owner is not present, an attempt to inform neighbors and any immediate public on hand of the issue shall be made.

10. Fire personnel may leave the scene if power lines are in trees and are not on fire or arcing. The anticipated drop zone of the power lines must be out of the “Public Right of Way’ and away from any fencing as well.

11. The in-service transmission should include a statement of how you handled the situation. You shall also tell dispatch to notify Edison that you are leaving the scene and we will no longer be monitoring their wires.

12. No member shall move any downed line from a “Public Right of Way” onto private property.

See Also:

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