



# SOUTH LYON FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Manual of Procedures 408

### DOWNED POWER LINE

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Issued: May 1, 2011  
Revised: October 18, 2016  
Approved: Chief Mike Kennedy

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#### I. SCOPE

This guideline shall be used to increase firefighter safety and awareness at incidents involving downed power lines.

#### II. OPERATIONS

- A. Upon arrival, size-up the scene, give dispatch a brief initial report and establish command.
- B. Scene safety shall be observed at all times.
- C. Use the "Hot Stick" to determine if a line is energized.
- D. Broken lines increase stress on nearby poles, weakening lines or poles, which may cause more damage.
- E. Do not drive over downed lines.
- F. Do not park under or adjacent to a line break
- G. Turnout gear provides no protection against electric shock.
- H. If wires are involved in a vehicle accident, do not touch the vehicle or occupants.
- I. Stay up wind from arcing wires.
- J. Secure the scene using apparatus, "danger" tape, and/or personnel if necessary.
- K. Notify Novi Regional 911 of the following, if known:
  - i. Street address or location of downed line.
  - ii. Situation at the scene:
    1. Person/s trapped or injured
    2. Any structures or vehicles threatened
    3. Type of wire involved (if it can be identified)
      - a. Primary or secondary
      - b. Pole to pole, pole to house
- L. "Danger tape" shall be placed around energized or non-energized lines.
- M. If the "Hot Stick" indicates that the line is non-energized, the IC may make decision leave the scene prior to the arrival of DTE. Neighboring businesses or residences should be notified to call 911 if anything changes if SLFD leaves prior to DTE arrival.
- N. If the "Hot Stick" indicates that the line is **energized**, SLFD shall leave one staff member on scene until the arrival of DTE. If DTE's arrival time is estimated to be over (1) hour, only one SLFD personnel will remain on scene with a support vehicle. If there are exposures and/or a risk of fire, a staffed engine shall remain on scene until DTE arrival.

Approved by  
/s/ Chief Mike Kennedy