

# Volusia County Fire Services Safety Gram



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## Power Line Safety

Company officers need to be aware of power line safety during hurricane and tropical storm season. Power lines may have fallen from downed trees or tree limbs due to high wind conditions. When an engine company comes across a down power line, do not expose firefighters while trying to eliminate the danger.

It is important to note that in modern electrical distribution systems power lines may be fed from more than one source or direction. Even when one or two power lines are down, company officers must **ALWAYS** assume that power lines are energized.

Action to be taken by the company officer upon arrival at the scene:

- Make sure apparatus is parked away from the down power line.
- Use a flashlight or spot light at night to examine the surroundings carefully from the apparatus.
- Move apparatus out of harms way, if near a down power line, by 20' to 25' feet away or two power poles away.
- Locate all power lines down, whether on the ground or in the air.
- If a live power line is touching a car or truck, or any other metal object, use extreme caution.
- Also a pool of water may conduct electricity if a live power line has fallen into it.
- Guard the danger zone and notify dispatch for power company response.
- Keep firefighters away from the down power lines or sagging power lines and other electrical hazards.
- If a power line has fallen onto a metal fence or other metal object, electricity may be conducted to other points some distance away. In fact, the ground itself can be energized to a dangerous level near the fallen power line.
- Do not attempt to move any fallen power lines, wait for power company personnel.
- Follow Standard Operating Procedure Volume II, 103.029 A/C Hot Stick.

**Stand back or stay in your apparatus approximately 20 to 25 feet or two power poles away.**

### Dispersion level Chart

Dispersion Range 0-40 is stable air, low fire intensity, less long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 41-70 is moderate unstable air, increased fire intensity and long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 70+ is unstable air, high amount of upper lifting, intense fire activity, potential for long range spotting and plume dominated wildfires.

Fire-line Handbook Jan.'98

**F**ight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.  
**I**nitiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.  
**R**ecognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.  
**E**nsure instructions are given and understood.

**O**btain current information on status.  
**R**emain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.  
**D**etermine safety zones and escape routes.  
**E**stablish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.  
**R**emain in control at all times.  
**S**tay alert, keep calm, act decisively.  
NWCG Handbook 3