

LOOKOUTS
COMMUNICATION
ESCAPE ROUTES
SAFETY ZONES

COUNTY OF VOLUSIA

SAFETY GRAM

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Safety Officer

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HURRICANE SCENE SAFETY

Fire Related Hazards Present During and After a Tornado or Hurricane

- Leaking gas lines, damaged or leaking gas propane containers, and leaking vehicle gas tanks may explode or ignite.
- Debris can easily ignite, especially if electrical wires are severed.
- Pools of water and even appliances can be electrically charged.
- Generators are often used during power outages. Generators that are not properly used and maintained can be very hazardous.
- Alternative heating devices used incorrectly create fire hazards. Proper use and maintenance can decrease the possibility of a fire.
- Appliances that emit smoke or sparks should be repaired or replaced.

Chemical Safety

- Look for combustible liquids like gasoline, lighter fluid, and paint thinner that may have spilled. Thoroughly clean the spill and place containers in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep combustible liquids away from heat sources.

Electrical Safety

- Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. This includes cable TV feeds.
- Exposed outlets and wiring could present a fire and life safety hazard.
- Appliances that emit smoke or sparks should be repaired or replaced.
- Have a licensed electrician check your home for damage.

Gas Safety

- Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak, immediately leave the house and leave the door (s) open.

Generator Safety

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines when using generators.
- Use a generator or other fuel-powered machines outside the home. CO fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.
- Use the appropriate sized and type power cords to carry the electric load. Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires.
- Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat might build up or damage to a cord may go unnoticed.

Never connect generators to another power source such as power lines. The reverse flow of electricity or 'back-feed' can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.

Follow the Incident Action Plan Safety Guidelines

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.

Fireline Handbook Jan.'98

Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.

Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.

Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

Ensure instructions are given and understood.

Obtain current information on status.

Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.

Determine safety zones and escape routes.

Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

Remain in control at all times.

Stay alert, keep calm, act decisively.

NWCG Handbook 3

Electrical power lines may have fallen down by trees and wind.

If you come across abnormal situations such as fallen power lines, don't expose yourself to a risk while trying to eliminate the danger. Always assume that the wires are energized. Inform the power company through dispatch so power crews can be dispatched.

It is important to note that in a modern electrical distribution system power lines may be fed from more than one source or direction, therefore, even when a wire is down both ends, it may still be alive and hazardous.

Action to be taken on arrival at the scene:

- 1.** Before getting out of the apparatus, make sure you are parked well away from the downed power line. If it is nighttime, use a flashlight to examine the surrounds carefully from the apparatus window. **If you are parked over or near the downed power line, move your apparatus well out of harm's way, a distance of at least 20 to 25 feet or two pole lengths away.**
- 2.** Locate all wire ends. They may be 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. **Stand back or stay in your apparatus approximately 20 to 25 feet or two power poles away.**
- 3.** If possible guard the danger zone and call the power company.
- 4.** Keep people away from the downed power line or sagging power lines and other electrical hazards. **If a power line has fallen on 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 line, wait for the power company personnel. Electrical power lines may have fallen down by trees and wind.

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