

Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline

Downed Power Lines

Objective:

To provide guidelines for responding to report of downed power lines.

General Information:

Falmouth Fire-EMS responds to many incidents involving downed power lines. Downed power lines can kill firefighters and the public and need to be dealt with in a very safe manner.

Guidelines:

General Response:

Falmouth Fire-EMS will respond to downed power lines with the district engine and the on-duty ambulance (if available). The response is code 1 (no lights or siren).

1. Response to Downed Power Lines:

- A. Request Central Maine Power to respond. Provide dispatch with location of the downed line(s).
- B. Consider all downed lines as “energized”.
- C. Locate both ends of the downed lines.
- D. Secure the area. Consider closing the road if needed. Place apparatus away from downed lines and power poles.
- E. Consider calling Fire Police to maintain safe area and road closure if needed.

2. Response to Downed Power Lines and Vehicles

- A. Request Central Maine Power to respond. Provide dispatch with location of the downed line(s).
- B. Secure the area. Consider closing the road if needed. Place apparatus away from downed lines and power poles.
- C. Consider all downed lines as “energized”.
- D. Do not touch vehicle.
- E. Have occupants remain in vehicle.
- F. If occupants must leave the vehicle (ex. Fire) instruct them to open the door, and do not step out. Instruct them to put their feet together and jump free of the vehicle without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time.
- G. Consider calling Fire Police to maintain safe area and road closure if needed.

3. Transformer, Utility Pole, Substation, Electrical Vault, or Manhole fire

- A. Request Central Maine Power to respond. Provide dispatch with location of the downed line(s).
- B. Clear the area. Consider closing the road if needed. Place apparatus away from immediate area.
- C. Be aware of an explosion potential.
- D. Protect exposures.
- E. Do not enter area until Central Maine Power (or utility company has de-energized the equipment and deemed the area safe to enter.
- F. Consider calling Fire Police to maintain safe area and road closure if needed.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.