

Weather Related Stand-by / Wires Down!

HAND OUT 1

When you arrive on the scene to relieve a fire company,

- Park away from the fire apparatus.
Notify Metro of your arrival.
- Stay outside of the Yellow Caution Tape.
- The fire Captain will review the scene with you and will point out safety concerns.
- Follow his/her instructions carefully.
- Do not disregard any of the safety concerns shared with you! DO NOT APPROACH THE DOWNED POWER LINE!
- Reposition your fire department vehicle to block traffic. Turn on flashers and/or emergency lights. (Leave vehicle running so as not to wear down the battery.)
- Maintain a 30 foot perimeter.
- When vehicles approach, do not stand in their path. Stay safely to the side and hold up your open hand to signal "STOP. Once the vehicle has stopped, you may approach the vehicle and answer any questions the driver may have. Be polite but firm when denying their entry into the perimeter. Never argue.

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HAND OUT 2

Electrical safety basics

Downed power lines

Secure the area. Keep yourself and the public *at least* 30 feet away from fallen power lines. Fallen transmission lines from large towers require 100 feet of clearance.

Stay clear of *all* downed lines and anything they are contacting, including nearby fences, trees, cable or phone lines and the ground.

Should a fire breakout: Do not attempt to extinguish. Increase the perimeter and contact Metro.

TOUCH AND STEP POTENTIALS:

The first responder to a traffic accident in which utility lines are either on the ground or on the vehicle faces two separate possibilities of a deadly electric shock. One of them is known as a “**step potential**,” and the other is considered a “**touch potential**.” In both cases the emergency responder puts him or herself in danger of becoming a path for the electricity to move through one’s body and cause serious or fatal injuries.

The term potential, as used with electric current, indicates a difference in voltage; and since electricity flows from higher voltage to lower voltage, a person whose body connects those two points will become the path for the current to flow.

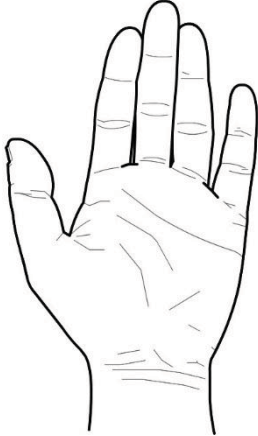
A **step potential** can seriously injure or kill someone who is walking toward or away from the point where an energized wire makes contact with the ground. As the electricity flows through the soil, which has resistance, the voltage dissipates the further it goes. By striding across the affected area, an emergency responder could have each foot in different voltage zones, and a fatal charge could travel up one leg and down the other to the area of the lesser voltage.

A **touch potential** can similarly injure someone who is standing on the ground which may have a lesser voltage than a vehicle which may be draped with energized wires. While the victims in such a vehicle are at a single voltage, the difference between that and the voltage in the ground can be fatal to an emergency responder.

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HAND OUT 3

Hand Signals



Stop Hand Signal

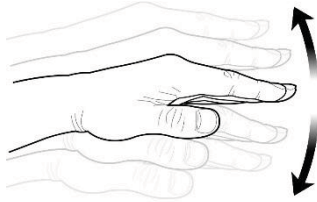
- Point with your arm and index finger at the person you want to stop.
- Raise your hand 45 degrees above your shoulder, arm extended, and palm facing out toward the person to be stopped.
- Do not lower your arm until the person has completely stopped.
- If stopping two-way traffic, stop each direction individually.



Go Hand Signal

- Point with your arm and index finger at the person you want to go.
- Hold your arm out and sweep your forearm in an arc toward your body.
- Continue as long as you want people to proceed.

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Slow Hand Signal

- Hold your arm out in front of you, palm facing down to the ground, fingers together.
- Push downward in small movements.



Directional Hand Signal

- Raise your arm straight out to the side for which traffic should flow, pointing your index finger in that direction.
- Use your other hand to point with your arm and index finger at the person you want to proceed. Sweep that forearm in an arc toward your body, fingers together.
- Continue this motion pointing at those you want to proceed, until you want to stop the flow of people or cars.

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