

Subject:	EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO STORM DAMAGE
Section:	PPG# 4400.14
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	7/1/98

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1 All members will treat all downed electrical power lines as if they are alive, until informed otherwise by the Puget Sound Energy or Bonneville power company.
- 1.2 No private, District 5 & 9 or other emergency vehicles shall not be parked under electrical power lines.
- 1.3 If Puget Sound Energy has not been advised of the situation by the time the members are on the scene, the Incident Commander shall request CapCom to do so.
- 1.4 The Incident Commander will direct members to areas where they may work safely until electrical power has been disconnected and verified.
 - 1.4.1 Bystanders shall be directed away from the hazard area. Isolate at least one span in both directions (unless the vehicle on the scene must leave for another incident).
 - 1.4.2 A guard shall be posted at both locations and block traffic if necessary (unless the vehicle on the scene must leave for another incident).
 - 1.4.3 If the emergency vehicle must leave for another incident, or it is impractical to wait for PSE due to an extended ETA, the downed line should be visibly marked with electrical hazard tape.

2.0 GUIDELINES

- 2.1 In the situation where a fallen tree has struck a house. Do not cut tree if:
 - (a) Further damage is likely to occur;
 - (b) Fallen tree may cause additional property damage; or
 - (c) Adequate manpower or equipment is not available. If structure damage has occurred and manpower and equipment are available, members may assist occupants in removing trees and securing residence.
- 2.2 If a tree has fallen across a road, warning flares should be set out and, if possible, that

portion of the tree removed which creates the hazard.

2.3 Where flooding water may endanger life:

- (a) Eliminate electrical hazards that could cause injury
- (b) Attempt to divert the flooding with a minimal amount of time and expense.
- (c) Remove water, if its removal will prevent further damage.
- (d) Secure items of value, which could be damaged if left in place.

4.0 REFERENCES

N/A