

**MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Operational Guidelines**

Approved by: Chief Mark Rohlfing

2020

**25.0 – STCAR (Streetcar)**

## PURPOSE

The Milwaukee Streetcar System contains various components carrying specific hazards. Critical to a successful outcome for any emergency within a system involving many separate departments and agencies is early recognition, notification, and unification of command. A rapid notification system has been established to ensure that key DPW and Transdev personnel are immediately notified by MFD Dispatch once they receive information indicating that an incident (EMS, non-EMS, or fire emergencies) involves streetcar vehicles or streetcar-related infrastructure or structures, or may be on or too near the tracks and associated wiring.

## SCOPE

The Milwaukee Streetcar System is run largely via the transmission of electricity from the overhead wires and on through the vehicles to create motion; however, there are substantial portions of the route which do not have overhead wires. While on these portions of the route, the vehicle will draw from its onboard batteries for the electricity needed to propel the vehicle. Some hazards will exist in all of the environments, and some hazards will exist only in the 'on wire' portions of the route. Early recognition of these factors will aid in evaluating the threat, and employing the appropriate protective measures.

## GUIDELINE

1. Establish Command
  - a. Set up a Unified Command with MPD, Transdev, and DPW
2. Conduct scene size-up
  - a. Streetcar-related or streetcar-adjacent?
3. Position apparatus' in a safe location and set up an appropriate safety perimeter
4. Determine strategy & incident action plan
5. Initiate and maintain communications
  - a. Provide first in report
  - b. Notify Dispatch of streetcar incident for proper notification and response of involved agencies, including DPW and Transdev
6. Implement incident action plan
  - a. In any case of fire, smoke, arcing, automobile vs. streetcar collision, derailment, or streetcar wires down, full de-energizing of the affected OCS and streetcar vehicle must occur
  - b. Identify the need for rescue or potential rescue
  - c. Communicate with streetcar operator about vehicle condition/status
  - d. Chock streetcar wheels to secure the vehicle
  - e. Provide EMS to patients who can be accessed safely
7. Provide follow up and progress reports as necessary
  - a. Reinforce all components are de-energized continuously
8. Transfer command to DPW and Transdev once incident has been mitigated.