

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

Approved by: Chief Mark Rohlfing

2019

**33.0 – WIRES (Wires Down)**

**PURPOSE**

To establish a guideline for the response to wires down call types. *WIRES (Wires Down)* assignments are dispatched when a caller observes wires down or detached from a pole. These downed wires may be reported by the caller as seemingly stable, sparking, arcing, or smoking. The *WIRES* assignment will also be dispatched if the caller reports that a tree has fallen on or is impinging upon overhead utility wires.

**SCOPE**

The potential safety impact upon civilians and responders should be emphasized at this type of response. These incidents are extremely hazardous due to the electrical hazards present. Complacency can prove fatal. It is important to treat all downed wires as energized until proven otherwise by We Energies-Electric personnel.

**GUIDELINE**

1. Establish Command
2. Conduct scene size-up
  - a. If upon investigation, a transformer or utility pole is found to be on fire, follow the *POLEF* (Pole Fire) operational guidelines.
3. Position apparatus to protect the safety perimeter
4. Determine strategy & incident action plan
5. Initiate and maintain communications
  - a. Provide first in report
  - b. Request dispatch make notification to We Energies-Electric (utility poles) or the City of Milwaukee Electrical Services (street light or stop light poles)
6. Implement incident action plan
  - a. Initially stay away from any downed wire and assume it is energized.
  - b. Keep the scene safe and set up an appropriate perimeter to keep all personnel and the public away.
  - c. Establish a safety perimeter in accordance with the risk.
    - i. A proper safety perimeter is minimally two full spans between affected poles
7. Provide follow up and progress reports as necessary
8. Transfer command to appropriate utility company and MPD once scene is deemed safe (wires have been de-energized)