

SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS SUGGESTED OPERATING GUIDELINE

INTERFACE BETWEEN SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

1. **Purpose:**

To provide a single consistent guideline for notifications and requests for assistance from the Public Utility District of Snohomish County.

2. **Policy:**

PUD shall be notified of all reports of incidents involving contact with power lines, reports of potential emergency situations involving power lines or known damage to PUD property.

3. **Definitions:**

3.1 **“Advisory” request** – Notifications where no fire or police are standing by and the probability of damage or injury is very low or non-existent, i.e. wires in the trees without fire, non-hazardous low hanging wires, minor damage to poles or other PUD property, power outages, etc. All situations that have not been assessed by fire or law enforcement personnel shall be treated as either Priority or High Priority by dispatch.

3.2 **“Priority” request** - A higher priority than Advisory. Where fire or police personnel feel they are required to stand by to avoid injuries to civilians or significant damage to property, i.e. Wires down possibly energized, wires involved with fire.

3.3 **“High Priority” request** – An incident that even with fire and/or police standing by the probability of injury or property damage is significant, i.e. wires down with high potential for citizen injury (children’s route to school), busy intersection, wires across vehicle, energized fence, electrocution, car/pole accidents, etc. Any citizen report that meets this definition without fire and/or police standing by shall be treated as a High Priority by the dispatch center until fire and/or police advise otherwise.

4. **Procedures:**

4.1 Notifications of Advisory and Priority requests require either a phone call to the Energy Control Center (425 347-5533) or a FAX (425 347-4495) (Under high volume situations requests may be faxed with prior notification to PUD). If the time from the notification exceeds two hours, units may request the status of the PUD. In this case a phone call will be placed to the PUD to confirm that the request has been received.

- 4.2 All High priority calls require a phone call by using the dedicated phone line to the Energy Control Center (425 347-5533) The PUD dispatcher will be given the reason for the high priority. The PUD dispatcher will call back when a PUD unit has been dispatched and advise the location the crew will be responding from. ETA's will not be given. If the PUD does not answer in a reasonable amount of time, the PUD city supervisor will be paged at 425-514-5060 for an immediate response.
- 4.3 Every attempt will be made to provide PUD with the closest physical address and/or pole number if available for their response and accurate relay incident information.
- 4.4 In an effort to reduce the duplication of emergency dispatch, out-of-service time of emergency apparatus, and duplicate notifications for assistance made to the PUD; the following triage, notification, and site security guidelines are suggested:
 - 4.4.1 Responding fire apparatus personnel should approach and position apparatus cautiously and at a safe distance away from any downed line whether or not it is believed to be energized.
 - 4.4.2 An assessment should be made by fire personnel to determine what type of utility line is down (power, cable, telephone). Further assessment should include a determination of what level of notification should be made to the PUD according to the criteria establishd in **Section 3** of this document.
 - 4.4.3 During times of stressed operations and where the availability of emergency resources is critical to public safety, emergency personnel and apparatus may not be able to remain on scene until the arrival of PUD service personnel. In such cases, and in an effort to provide a level of safety to civilians and PUD service personnel, barrier tape should be used to mark the hazard area or entrance to the hazard area – remembering to provide a safe distance. Wherever safely possible, both sides of the hazard area should be marked to provide adequate warning from both directions. It is suggested to use 3” wide red plastic barrier tape bearing the word “Danger”.

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 - 4.4.4 The purpose of the barrier tape is primarily to provide an indication of the potential hazard, but also serves to notify (in cases of duplicate reporting) other response apparatus that the incident has already been reported to the PUD.
 - 4.4.5 The barrier tape should only be removed by PUD service personnel once the hazard has been mitigated.

5. Training:

**ALL REVISIONS TO THIS DOCUMENT No. 60-01-01
MUST BE APPROVED BY THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOC.**

The PUD Energy Control Center, communication centers, and fire departments shall train their personnel on their responsibilities of the above procedures.