

**Release: 1.0**  
**Effective: 10/02/2002**

**Derby Fire Department**  
**Standard Operating Procedure Number 15**  
**Downed Utility Lines**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This standard operating procedure applies to apparatus and members responding to reported downed lines (power, cable, telephone or other), the intent of this procedure is to provide general guidelines for operating within the Department Accountability and Incident Command parameters. Safety for both Department Members and civilians is of paramount importance and should always be the number one priority.
- 1.2 The Members of the Derby Fire Department shall provide the means to evacuate the people in the effected area, establish a safe perimeter and perform tasks up to the level of their training and level of their Personal Protective Equipment (P.P.E.). These functions cannot be preformed if the Department Members become part of the casualty list.

**2. Response Considerations**

- 2.1 The Derby Fire Department will be dispatched according to the Departments Dispatch Protocols. All downed lines will be considered as power lines until it can be determined if the lines are telephone, cable or other. If the line is a power line it will be treated as live until the proper utility company arrives on scene and either confirms the line is dead or deactivates the power.

**3. General Procedures**

- 3.1 Approaching apparatus will not cross downed lines and position themselves a safe distance away from the lines.
- 3.2 All Department Members will stay clear of downed power lines and clearly mark out a safety zone with traffic cones or barrier tape, to keep civilians and Department Members clear of the lines.
- 3.3 The I.C. will have C-Med contact the appropriate utility company and inform them of the situation, and have them dispatch a crew to the scene.
- 3.4 If the line is blocking or interfering with the normal flow of traffic, and it is determined that the downed line is not a power line then the I.C. can take the necessary action to open the road way. If it is a power line then

the traffic will be rerouted around the incident or the road will be shut down until the utility company arrives on scene and corrects the problem.

- 3.5 At no time will any member of the Department attempt to move a power line or approach a power line to attempt to determine if the line is live or dead.