

TRAINING ALERT

*Train as if your life depends on it... **BECAUSE IT DOES!***

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The In-Service Section will issue training alerts as the need arises. They are intended to be shared at line-up.

AERIAL LADDER PLACEMENT AT EMERGENCIES

Recently, an incident highlighted the need to be diligent about the placement of aerial ladders in relation to electrical wires during emergencies. An excerpt from aerial ladder apparatus logbooks refer to placement of aerial ladders near electrical wires in the following manner:

Safety: Environmental Hazards

Avoid close proximity with electrical wiring and cables. Always keep the aerial at least 10 feet away from all wiring. If the aerial should contact power lines, all personnel should remain on the apparatus until power is shut off or aerial is freed. Always assume that power lines and electrical devices are "live." Electricity in an overhead wire of almost any voltage can cause personal injury and even result in death. Even though the amount of voltage present plays an important part it is actually the amount of current (amps) passing through the body, which determines the severity of injury. Voltage is the vehicle, which acts as the driving force in pushing the current through the body.



Allow for ladder sway, rock and sag when operating near power lines and cables

The following warning is provided by the manufacture in the apparatus logbook:



DANGER

Death or serious injury will result from contact with or adequate clearance from, energized conductors. Maintain safe clearances from power lines and electrical devices. You must allow for ladder sway, rock and sag when operating near power lines and cables. The apparatus is not insulated. Contact between the apparatus and ground, should the unit become energized, will result in death or serious injury. If the aerial should contact power lines, all members should remain fully on or fully off the apparatus until power is shut off or aerial is freed.

When placing any ladder at an emergency consider the following:

- Situational Awareness
- Risk vs. Gain
- Illumination
- Buffer Zone (Distance from hazards)
- Communications