

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 14-01

February 12, 2014

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr



SUBJECT: PEPCO Electrical Emergency Classifications

In conjunction with the regional fire and rescue departments, PEPCO has developed a classification system and priority list for electrical emergencies. The ability to quickly provide PEPCO with critical incident information will allow for timely allocation of utility resources and arrival on-scene.

When a unit is on-scene and needs assistance from a power utility, they must provide to ECC:

- The specific power provider, if known
- The number assigned to the closest pole or equipment
- The street address
- The nature of the situation
- The emergency classification (Priority 1, 2, or 3)
- Disposition for police (are they needed, or can they disregard)

During Condition Red, or other high volume periods, only notifications for Priority 1 events should be transmitted on 7-Bravo. Lower priority notifications should be made within Condition Red guidelines, or by direction of the ECC Supervisor.

For complex or life threatening electrical emergencies, consider providing:

- The best route of travel for utility vehicles to access the scene
- Advise if a hot zone has been established and/or residents/occupants evacuated
- Need for police/law enforcement to support hot zone
- The need for expedited response/escort of utility crews by law enforcement.
(Note: Only the most critical events require this action)

All personnel should review the attached flyer from PEPCO outlining the criteria for the emergency classifications.

Division Chief Scott Goldstein at 240-777-2464.



Emergency Services Partnership Program

Emergency Assistance

Pepco and regional fire service organizations have developed a priority list for electrical emergencies. In the event a Fire Chief, First Responder or his/her representative requests assistance from Pepco, he/she will attempt to prioritize the response and provide as much information about the emergency as possible.

GENERAL INFORMATION TO ASSIST PEPCO OPERATIONS CENTER

- Determine the 10 digit numbers assigned to the Pepco pole/equipment closest to the area.
- Street address and development, including cross streets, intersections, roads or landmarks
- Best route for Pepco vehicle to access the scene (any road blocks, traffic conditions)
- Is a perimeter established? Has the area been evacuated?
- Can local law enforcement assist our response through traffic conditions?

ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY CLASSIFICATIONS:

Priority One:

Any vehicle accident in which a rescue cannot be safely initiated because of downed power line.

Any electrical problem that has a potential to be life threatening.

Any structure fire that has an electrical problem that prohibits a rescue or fire suppression and **cannot be controlled by shutting off the structure's main electrical switch to interrupt electric service.**

Manhole and Substation Emergencies Require Extreme Caution:

- Establish safe perimeter for first responders and the public
- Avoid entry into manholes and substations until an authorized Pepco representative is on-scene
- Let It Burn – electrical equipment involved in fires is usually damaged beyond repair and will need to be replaced. Make sure you protect exposures and wait for Pepco personnel to assist you.
- Under extreme emergencies when life threatening conditions exist, a fog pattern is recommended when fire suppression activities are in the vicinity of electrical equipment.

Priority Two:

Any electrical problem in a structure that prohibits "fire-overhaul" because **the structure's main electrical switch cannot be controlled to interrupt power to the location.**

Any vehicle accident that has a downed power line or power pole, but does not hinder rescue or emergency care.

Priority Three:

Power outages because of blown fuses, tripped transformer, tree limbs on wires or loose guy wire.

Downed power lines that are not life threatening. **Always assume downed lines are energized.**

- Are barricades in place to protect first responders and the public from electrical contact?