

Universal response tactics for electricity

In a fire involving electrical facilities, confirm your dispatcher has notified National Grid. Work with National Grid's on-scene representative in a unified command structure and follow these steps:

1. Approach cautiously and be alert for downed power lines. Evaluate the scene from a safe distance.
2. Identify and mark all electrical hazards.
3. Consider all wires and equipment to be energized and dangerous.
4. Stay *at least* 10 feet away from all overhead power lines. If a crane is being used, stay *at least* 20 feet away until National Grid determines the voltage.
5. Evacuate the public a safe distance.
6. Be alert for explosion and toxic smoke hazards.
7. Use full PPE and SCBA.
8. Keep ladders and aerial equipment away from power lines. Use a spotter.
9. When water must be used to protect exposures, stay *at least* 30 feet away from energized objects. Use a 30° fog pattern at 100 psi—NEVER a straight stream.
10. Confirm service interruption and restoration with National Grid.