



Today's discussion is from the
Wildland / Urban Interface Category.

POWER LINE SAFETY

Operating near or under power lines poses unique hazards, and the following precautions should be followed to reduce potential equipment damage or injury:

- If possible, the power company should deactivate lines in the fire area.
- Don't operate heavy equipment under power lines.
- Keep all aviation activity away from power lines. Inform air attack and/or other aviation resources of the location of the power lines.
- Don't drive with long antennas under power lines.
- Don't stand near power lines during retardant drops.
- Don't park under power lines. The magnetic field around energized power lines can induce an electrical charge in ungrounded vehicles or equipment. This charge can shock anyone who touches the vehicle.
- Don't apply straight stream to power lines.
- All personnel should be cautioned that smoke may become charged and conduct the electrical current. Deactivated transmission and distribution lines may continue to pose a hazard due to induction.
- If power lines fall on your vehicle, DON'T leave the vehicle until the power company arrives. If the vehicle is on fire or fire is near, jump clear, don't hang on, keep feet together, and bunny hop away.

References:

[Fireline Handbook](#)
[Incident Response Pocket Guide](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

ONLINE | MAIL: 6 Minutes For Safety Task Group • 3833 S. Development Ave • Boise, ID 83705 | FAX: 208-387-5250

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