

## ELECTRICAL AND GAS SHUTOFF

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**Purpose:**    *Electricity presents a great threat to personnel safety. Proper disconnection of both electrical and natural gas utilities may be essential to personnel safety when at the emergency scene.*

**Procedure:**

1. The officer of the first arriving fire apparatus shall be responsible for causing the disconnection of electrical and/or natural gas service on those incidents where he/she deems necessary to safeguard lives and property. He/she should be aware that in large homes or business there may be more than one incoming electrical/gas service or in rare occasion the pirating of utility service.
2. Whoever causes the disconnection of these services shall contact radio and request the response of the appropriate utility company.
3. In the event fireground operations are either directly hampered, or there is an imminent threat to lives due to energized electrical wires, radio shall be advised accordingly, so that the utility companies can expedite response. No one shall make such statements merely to speed up the response of utility company representatives.
4. The preferred method for disconnecting the electrical service is at the main service disconnecting switches or main circuit breaker. Every attempt shall be made to locate the main electrical panels and to operate the main disconnects before seeking alternative measures of electrical disconnection.
5. The second method of disconnecting electrical service is by meter removal. Only those persons who have received proper instruction in this technique shall remove electrical meters. Once meters are removed, they shall not be re-installed by fire department personnel for any reason whatsoever. Whoever removes a meter shall ensure that it is NOT a current transformer type meter, since removal of a current transformer meter does NOT disconnect electrical service.
6. Electrical meters shall be safeguarded and turned over to utility company representatives.
7. Fire department personnel shall not disconnect electrical service by cutting of service entrance wires unless approved by the Incident Commander and the safety officer, and the person doing so has been properly trained or experienced and has the necessary personal protective equipment.
8. Any fallen wires are be presumed to be energized unless told otherwise by utility company personnel or they are communications lines. If the fallen wires are in the vicinity where the presence of personnel is necessary, a firefighter shall be posted nearby to warn others of the hazard. If there is insufficient personnel, traffic cones shall be placed at a safe distance to alert others to the hazard.

*Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions.*

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9. Whenever it becomes necessary to disconnect natural gas service, the first preference is at the valve for the appliance. If this is not feasible then use the valve at the gas meter. If that is impractical, there may be a "street box" usually buried in the front yard that has a valve that can be used to disconnect the gas service. In newer subdivisions, there are no street boxes and only the utility company can shut off the gas, if the meter valve is inaccessible.
10. A natural gas fed fire shall not be extinguished until the gas supply is shut off.
11. Natural gas to industrial buildings shall not be shut off except by order of the Incident Commander, given hazards associated with relighting a number of appliance pilot lights.
12. Fire department personnel shall not restore any electric or natural gas service for any reason. Restoration shall be left up to the utility company.