

Electrical Safety for Emergency Responders

Facilitator's Guide

Emergency responders must be prepared for anything and everything. This material will increase awareness of electrical hazards and show how to work safely when responding to emergencies involving electricity. This Facilitator's Guide contains ideas for effectively presenting this material to your department members and making the most of your training program.

Prepare in Advance

It's a good idea to preview the video and read the materials before you show them to your department members. It may also be useful to gather some information that will help make the materials more relevant. Here are some ideas:

- Identify the key hazards your emergency responders face when working around electrical emergencies – such as house fires, car accidents, pole fires and contact with energized wires – during your training session. What type of equipment do they use? What type of aerial equipment? What situations bring your personnel close to power lines?

Six-Step Meeting Plan

Follow these steps for a high-impact training session that will keep your members involved and reinforce essential safety information:

1. Advertise the Meeting

Advertise the training session well in advance in a highly visible location.

2. Pass the Sign-In Sheet

It's important to keep attendance records of all training sessions. Someday, there may be a need to know who attended the training and when. You are more likely to get everyone to sign in if you start circulating the sheet at the beginning of the training session.

At the end of the session confirm everyone has signed the sheet.

3. Offer an Overview

Review what will be covered in the session and what your personnel will learn. This is a good time to convey the importance of this information – that it can prevent serious injury or, in some cases, death. It may also be appropriate to talk about any recent power line incidents relating to emergency services.

4. Show Electrical Safety for Emergency Responders Video

You might preface the video by asking members to pay attention to sections they have been exposed to most frequently.

5. Distribute Emergency Responder Materials

The enclosed materials reinforce key messages from the videos. Each page conveys high-impact safety messages.

6. Discuss and Evaluate

Participants will retain more information if they get involved in activities and discussion. Here are some ideas:

- Invite attendees to ask questions about the video or booklet, and company Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). If you are asked a question you can't answer, write it down, research it afterward and follow up with a response.
- Ask members to name what they learned.
- Review key concepts that are most pertinent to emergency responders.
- Ask members how they would rate the overall effectiveness of the material and what they liked/didn't like.