



Training Bulletin

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Responding to and Managing Manhole Fires

Responding to manhole fires involves unique challenges due to electrical system involvement and hazardous conditions. Proper response and management are vital to ensure public and responder safety. Here are recommended guidelines for effective manhole fire response and management:

- **Initial response:** BE AWARE OF MANHOLE COVERS, DO NOT PARK ON OR NEAR MANHOLE COVERS. Check for injured parties/clear scene. Contact the underground electric company immediately to shut down power to the affected area. Do not proceed until permission is given to flood the manhole.
- **Lob Water into the Manhole:** If safe to do so, initial efforts can include carefully lobbing water into the manhole to cool down any potential fire. Flood manhole with 4 inch feederline if safe to do so and utilize manhole cover to keep hose in place if unmanned.
- **Maintain Safe Distance:** Keep personnel and equipment a safe distance away from the manhole to avoid exposure to potential hazards and explosions.
- **Manhole Covers:** Do not remove manhole covers without proper evaluation and coordination with the electric company.
- **Avoid Parking Over Manholes:** Prevent vehicles from parking over any manholes in the vicinity to avoid hindering emergency operations and potential hazards.
- **Survey Surrounding Buildings:** Survey nearby buildings for CO on all floors and rooms. Evacuate if CO readings exceed 35 ppm by activating the fire alarm system. CO removal/ventilation can be lengthy; consider battery-powered fans in stairwells or elevator shafts for exhausting CO. In case of power outage, use portable generators for electric fans. Contact Tech Services for extra fans and CGI equipment for ventilation and surveying.
- **Prevent Overfilling Manholes:** While flooding the manhole, (with authorization of electric company), exercise caution to prevent excessive water accumulation that could flow into nearby buildings and potentially cause hazardous conditions.
- **Notifications:** Notify EverSource/utility provider, building managers, police for traffic control, and ISD for health/electrical inspectors, especially if restaurants are affected. Prioritize public and responder safety in manhole fire incidents through clear communication, protocols, and ongoing training for efficient response and management.

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." - Joshua J. Marine

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