



Training Bulletin

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Catenary Pole Tester



- The Cambridge Fire Department is equipped with two catenary pole testers.
- Both are conveniently located in a marked locker inside the **MBTA Police Office** located at the 3 North First Street Lechmere Green Line Station.
- Keys should be in the Knox box above fire box 1211 to gain access through the gate and to the MBTA Police Office.
- The fire company Knox key will also fit the padlock on the locker.
- These testers serve as an essential tool for verifying the presence of voltage in the 600 Volt Direct Current (DC) range in the overhead catenary system.
- The process to verify DC voltage presence is very similar to the third rail tester with one exception.
- The exception is that after the paddle lead is placed onto the running rail, then the pole is extended upward to hook the copper lead onto the overhead catenary wire power supply.
- There are two leads. One lead must make contact to a ground first and the other lead must contact the power supply coming in last. Reverse the order when making up after deployment.
- One tester should be deployed at each end of the train. Additional testers may be available through mutual aid with Somerville or Boston.
- Downtown fire companies in the district are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the location and functionality of these testers. To assist with accomplishing this the Training Division or Special Operation Division will be planning upcoming training sessions to ensure comprehensive understanding and effective utilization of these testers.

Submit a potential Training Bulletin topic via email to: Training@cambridgefire.org