

## FIRE FIGHTERS GUIDANCE NOTE #6-20

### ISSUE:    ELECTRICAL HAZARDS IN RESCUE AND FIRE SITUATIONS

Firefighters may be exposed to the risk of electrocution and/or serious injury during an emergency response to:

- Hydro utility equipment that is damaged or has caught fire (for example, as a result of a vehicle collision with a hydro pole or a hydro transformer explosion) or,
- Structural fires where fire has compromised the electrical power supply.

Employers have duties under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) including, but not limited to: acquainting a worker or a person in authority over a worker with any hazard in the work; providing information, instruction and supervision to workers; ensuring the equipment, materials and protective devices provided by the employer are maintained in good condition; and taking every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker.

#### References:

OHSA Clauses 25(1)(b), 25(2)(a), (d), and (h)

GN # 6-16 Machinery/Electrical Lockout During Emergency Response

Electrical Safety Handbook for Emergency Responders – Best practices for Coping with Electrical Hazards in Rescue and Fire Situations, [Hydro One Networks Inc., Electrical Safety Authority, Office of the Fire Marshal, and Public Services Health and Safety Association], revised 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.

[http://www.pshsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/EELPWAEN0413-Electrical-Safety-Handbook\\_20131.pdf](http://www.pshsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/EELPWAEN0413-Electrical-Safety-Handbook_20131.pdf)