

# Notice



## Powerline Safety Training for Wildland Firefighters



Wildland firefighters frequently encounter powerlines during wildland fire suppression activities. The major hazards powerlines present to firefighters are electrocution or internal burns from indirect contact with live powerlines. The Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) was asked to provide training materials to help wildland firefighters work safely near powerlines.

The Salt River Project, an Arizona utility company, collaborated with the Coconino National Forest to produce a training video that discusses dangers and safety practices for wildland firefighters working near powerlines. MTDC reviewed the training video and found it suitable for training wildland firefighters.

The video explains:

- The roles and responsibilities of the utility company
- How water, foam, retardant, or smoke can conduct electricity to the ground or across powerlines
- Aircraft safety near powerlines
- The difference between “step potential” and “touch potential” and how to respond accordingly
- How to safely exit and move away from a vehicle energized by a downed powerline

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This 18-minute training video is available at <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5bvZIJLXo>> or type “Electric Fire: Firefighter Safety Around Powerlines” into your computer search engine. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management employees can access the video on the internal Forest Service network at <<http://fsweb.mtdc.wo.fs.fed.us/programs/fire/video/safety.htm>>.