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**Section: 3.11      A/C Hot Stick**

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**SCOPE**

This guideline applies to all South Metro Fire Department personnel responsible for emergency response.

**PURPOSE**

To establish a standard procedure for the use of the A/C Hot Stick. The A/C Hot Stick is a commercially produced device designed to assist emergency scene personnel with the location of A/C current. The intent of this procedure is to instruct department personnel in the use of a specific piece of equipment. It is expected that all personnel train with, and become familiar with the operation of this device.

**PROCEDURE**

Initiation of the following safety procedures is required when a potential electrical hazard exists for personnel, or if the need to determine the location of live electrical current exists.

**Personnel Considerations:**

Personnel should consider **ALL** electrical wires to be **LIVE**, until determined otherwise by the power company.

1. Request a response from the appropriate Power Company.
2. The A/C Hot Stick is designed for use whenever possible to detect unshielded A/C voltage either inside or outside of structures.

**Operational Considerations:**

1. Turn A/C Hot Stick on to the high sensitivity mode and let unit go through self-test.
2. **Do not use the device if it fails to “beep” or omit a flashing light after being turned-on.** If the device is ready for normal operation it will display a steady, audible tone, or it will chirp and or go through the self-test when tapped.
3. After a successful self-test of the device, the operator should move the A/C Hot Stick around slowly. The operator should continue to use the **high-sensitivity mode** until the general location and direction of the unshielded A/C voltage is determined.
4. Turn the A/C Hot Stick to the **low sensitivity mode**, and then **front focused mode** to pinpoint the location of the unshielded A/C Voltage.
5. Detection device ready for use by the entry team.