

# City of Winter Park Fire-Rescue Standard Operating Procedure

# 230.06

Title: Operational Procedures for the use  
of the "A/C Hot Stick"

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**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.

**Scope:** The intent of this procedure 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. Authority to deviate from this procedure rests with the Incident Commander.

**General:** 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.

## 230.06.01. Personnel Considerations:

Personnel should consider **ALL** electrical wires to be **LIVE**, until determined otherwise by Florida Power.

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

## 230.06.02. Operational Considerations:

- a. Turn A/C Hot Stick on to the high sensitivity mode and let unit go through self-test.
- b. **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.

- c. After a successful self-test of the device, the operator should move the A/C Hot Stick around slowly. The operator should continue the use the **high-sensitivity mode** until the general location and direction of the unshielded A/C voltage is determined.
- d. 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.

**230.06.03. Special Considerations:**

- a. When NO life or property hazard exists:

If no life hazard or property conservation concerns exist, establishment of a safe zone of 15 feet around the voltage source is acceptable. Personnel should consider safety zones with distances greater than 15 feet during inclement weather (rain).

- b. When obvious electrical hazards to human life exist:

Personnel who must enter an area where the potential for an electrical hazard exist shall:

1. Receive a NEGATIVE reading on the A/C Hot Stick, in the **low sensitivity mode** for a minimum of one minute.
2. If personnel are to enter a potentially hazardous hot-zone, the establishment of a Rapid Intervention Team is required. The RIT and the entry team shall monitor the device, continuously during the operation.
3. The operator shall order an immediate evacuation of the hot-zone anytime the device detects live-voltage, or anytime personnel are in imminent danger.

This procedure would not be required for entry during structural fire fighting procedures. However, it is recommended that the RIT team have an A/C hot stick detection device ready for use by the entry team.