

<b>TITLE</b> OPERATIONS MANUAL	<b>STANDARD</b> INSTRUCTION 02		<b>DEPARTMENT</b> FIRE
<b>SUBJECT</b> FIRE SUPPRESSION: UNDERGROUND (VAULT) ELECTRICAL FIRES	<b>SECTION</b> 30	<b>PAGE</b> 1 OF 1	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> 12/06/2011

**I. PURPOSE**

To establish policies and procedures for Fire-Rescue personnel when responding to fire related emergencies involving underground electrical equipment and structures.

**II. SCOPE**

This policy shall apply to all SDFD Personnel.

**III. AUTHORITY**

The Fire Chief in coordination with the Assistant Fire Chief of Operations, Deputy Chief Shift Commanders authorizes the information within this policy.

**IV. POLICY**

A. Safety

1. A vault is a subsurface or street side structure containing energized electrical cables and equipment such as switches and meters etc. Other subsurface structures include manholes and handholes.
2. A manhole when involved in fire is considered an IDLH atmosphere and a confined space.

B. Emergency Procedures – Fire

1. Fire-Rescue personnel shall not enter or attempt to extinguish a fire in an underground vault or manhole containing electrical installations while they are energized.
2. Company officers should ensure crews keep a safe distance from the underground vault opening and contact Fire Communications Center to request an SDGE immediate response.
3. Do not open a vault or manhole cover as this could introduce oxygen and result in a potentially explosive atmosphere.
4. Do not park apparatus over vault or manhole covers and maintain a safe distance; manhole covers have been known to explosively dislodge up to a distance of 150 feet.
5. Fire extinguishment may be started only after an authorized representative of SDG&E has determined that conductors and underground electrical equipment have been de-energized.