

Electricity and Water: Minimize the risk while fighting fires

Electrical current will travel through a solid stream of water and the combination of water and electricity can be potentially fatal. If your building is on fire, call 911, then call Hydro One to request an “emergency disconnect” of your hydro transformer. You must know your hydro account number. Flipping the master switch in your hydro “fuse panel” may be helpful but is not sufficient to ensure your safety.

At each fire pump station, there are two different nozzles (*Figure 1*) to attach to the fire hose. The nozzle on the left is for “digging” fire and embers from between the rocks and between cracks. The one on the right is for “fogging” structures. **NOTE: Most “fogging” nozzles are red** (*see Figure 2*).

So if you are fighting a structure fire where there is electricity present, you **must** use a “fogging” nozzle (*Figure 1*). This nozzle is also adjustable (*Figure 2*) so be careful not to adjust it down to a “solid” stream, as it is set in this picture, unless your intention is to **only** use it as you would use a digging nozzle; to fight non-structural fires or to shoot water onto the top of the roof of structures where no electricity is present.



Figure 2: **FOGGING NOZZLES**



Figure 1: Digging Nozzle Fogging Nozzle **Yellow:** Set it to “Spray” or “Solid”. **Red:** Twist to set solid stream or fog.

Be aware that using a fogging nozzle greatly reduces, but does not entirely eliminate, the risk of electrocution.

The MNR does not fight structure fires as they do not have fogging nozzles. Nor do they have the required training, respiratory apparatus, or protective gear for exploding household objects such as aerosol cans.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Weichmann at 705-863-2618 or Daryl Campbell at 705-507-8047.