

Regulatory Guide on Ground Laid Temporary Facilities aka “Temp Lines”

The City of Chandler’s (CoC) primary goal is to work with all utilities to resolve the on-going temp line problem in a way that works for both the utility and the citizens of Chandler into the foreseeable future.

- 1. Utility position on Temp lines**
 - a. Utility companies overall perspective is that a temp line is not the ideal situation but it’s a required temporary solution to keep customers service active during a service outage.
 - b. Utility companies consider the placement of a temp line an emergency repair to provide a temporary solution until the line can be repaired permanently using available resources in a reasonable amount of time.

- 2. COC’s position on Temp lines**
 - a. They are a safety hazard to the public and the COC receives calls from residents, HOA’s and other departments from the COC regarding temp lines. Most current methods of placing temp lines in City Right-of-Way are not acceptable.
 - b. As typically placed within the COC, they are in violation of National Electric Safety Code (NESC), Arizona Administrative Code (ACC) and COC Municipal Code.
 - c. Temp lines often remain in place for several months and often will only be removed when a complaint is received asking the utility company to have the line removed.

- 3. NESC Rules**
 - a. 230A2d - Supply and communication cables may be laid directly on grade if they are guarded or otherwise located so that they do not unduly obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic and are appropriately marked. Supply cables operating above 600V shall meet either Rule 230C or Rule 350B.
 - b. NESC Rule 014A4 - Emergency installations shall be removed, replaced or relocated, as desired, as soon as practical.

- 4. ACC Title 14, Chapter 2, Article 5.**

- a. In accordance with NESC 507 E Construction standards. Each utility shall construct all facilities in accordance with the provisions of Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc., Pub. No. C2-2007, the National Electrical Safety Code (2007), which is incorporated by reference in R14-2-207(E)(3)(c). R14-2-507. Provision of Service A. Utility responsibility. Each utility shall be responsible for maintaining in safe operating condition all equipment and fixtures used in providing utility service to the customer that are owned by and under the exclusive control of the utility.

5. CoC Municipal Code Chapter 46, Division 1, Section 2

- a. No person shall excavate, erect, construct, place or maintain any pipe, conduit, wire, cable or other structure, on, over or under the surface of any public place, highway, right-of-way, pathway, street, sidewalk, driveway, curb, gutter, paving or other surface or subsurface drainage structure or facility for any purpose whatsoever, without first obtaining a permit from the City in accordance with the provisions set forth herein.
- b. This chapter does not prevent any person from maintaining any pipe or conduit lawfully on or under any public highway, or from making excavations necessary for the preservation of life or property when an urgent necessity therefor arises while City offices are closed. A person making an emergency use or encroachment on a public street shall apply for a permit therefor within one (1) calendar day after the offices of the City are opened and shall pay all applicable fees, perform required pavement restoration and comply with all other applicable requirements of this chapter.

6. Temp line resolution process:

- 1) The utility technician notifies his supervisor of the need for preservation of life or property requiring an urgent necessity to restore service to **an existing customer**.
- 2) The utility company tech, supervisor, dispatcher, or coordinator notifies the City of Chandler by submitting an Inspection Request through the Inspection Request process on line at chandleraz.gov/clics or by calling (480)782-3100.
- 3) The utility company notifies their contractor of the temp line (if the repair is to be handled by a contractor).
- 4) The utility company or their contractor calls AZ811 for locates (Blue Stake).
- 5) The utility company or their contractor submits a traffic control plan to

tcp@chandleraz.gov or contacts Chandler PD at 480-782-4130 (as necessary).

- 6) The utility company or their contractor replaces the temp line as soon as Blue Stake has cleared under the emergency annual blanket permit.
 - 7) Utility company sends in an after-the-fact permit through the normal permitting process with a note in the scope of work that the application is for an "As-built of emergency repair".
- 7.** Utility companies making an emergency use or encroachment on a public street and choosing to use a temporary line installation will require they be installed in a safe manner per all NESC and ACC guidelines and using the COC emergency notification & repair process to have the line removed as outlined above. The utility company placing a temporary line does so at its own risk and the City of Chandler considers them a safety hazard that needs to be removed as soon as practical. Following this process will expedite the repair of the temp line and provide notice to the COC that the utility company is working on resolving the issue. If the resolution process isn't followed, the COC could issue fines for temp line installations that do not follow the emergency annual notification and repair process in a safe manor as outlined above.
- 8.** At the discretion of the Development Services Director, the Development Project Administrator may impose a penalty assessment of up to \$1,000 per incident on a communications company for failure to apply for an encroachment permit within thirty (30) business days from either the date of the report submitted by the public regarding the location of a temporary service line or the date of the notification to the utility from the City of an unreported temporary service line (in the case of a discovery of such a temporary service line by City staff). The thirty (30) day time frame is for temp lines that are in an alley or other low traffic areas that do not pose an immediate and sever hazard to public safety. Should the temp line pose an immediate and severe hazard to public safety this time frame can be reduced to as little as five (5) business days, which gives one (1) day to report and call Blue Stake, seventy-two (72) hours for Blue Stake to clear, and the fifth day for construction to occur.