



Roosevelt Fire District
Standard Operating Guidelines

Section:
Operations

Guideline 9:
Ice/Water Rescue

Purpose: To provide all firefighters and EMS personnel with the proper techniques to ensure maximum safety when performing ice / water rescues

Scope: This procedure is to be followed by all firefighters, EMS personnel and officers when involved in an ice / water rescue.

Training: The Roosevelt Fire District Emergency Service Squad, and Rescue Squad shall conduct annual training on Ice/Water Rescue

Procedure:

1. The Roosevelt Fire District incident command system will be implemented at all ice / water rescue incidents to ensure safe operations.
2. The incident commander will size up the scene location, determine the number of victims and establish a safety zone.
3. Scene management shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - A. Removal of all non-essential personnel.
 - B. Setting up a staging area and Safety Zone
 - C. Establishing communications with the victim(s) and determine the victims' condition if possible.
 - D. Determine time victim(s) have been in the water.
 - E. Determine what type of rescue will be used (reach, throw, go)
4. Primary rescuers and backup personnel will be equipped with cold water rescue and/or immersion suits
5. All personnel working on shore within 15 feet of the water shall wear an approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD).
6. Tether lines will be attached to all personnel engaged in "GO" or "CONTACT" rescues. Attachment is to be made to the "D-ring" on the Ice rescue suits, and if this is not possible, utilization of an appropriate harness shall be made. Shore personnel will tend to all tether lines and remain in contact with in-water / on-ice personnel.
7. Each person involved in the rescue operation should have a backup person to take over if needed.
8. Rescue teams will consist of a two-man team with lifelines and a backup team.
9. EMS Personnel shall prepare to treat the victim(s) and rescuers for hypothermia and near drowning
10. Rest and medical monitoring of all personnel in a warm vehicle or shelter should be provided at regular intervals. The EMS team leader or Safety Officer will declare any rescuer unfit to continue and will notify the IC.

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