

PURPOSE

To establish safe operating procedures that identify the responsibilities of Companies upon arrival to any Technical Rescue emergency.

TRAINING LEVELS:

Firefighters are trained to the awareness levels in water, trench, rope & confined spaces. Any other technical rescue will use mutual-aid technical teams.

- A. Awareness Level – Engine and Technical Team.
- B. Operations Level – Technical Team.
- C. Technician Level – Technical Team only.

ROPE RESCUE**PROCEDURE**

1. **First arriving Company Officer completes incident size-up.**
 - A. Assume Command and request Technical Team, if needed.
 - B. Survey the area, locate the victims.
 - C. What is the victim status? (Rescue or Recovery.)
 - D. Is there a need for additional Specialty Teams based upon the situation?
2. **Initial Actions**
 - A. Interview witnesses.
 - B. Establish communication with the victim(s), if possible.
 - C. Update incoming Specialty Teams with current status and potential needs.
 - D. Establish a safety perimeter and deny entry to hazardous areas.

WATER RESCUE**PROCEDURE**

1. **First arriving Company Officer completes incident size-up.**
 - A. Number of victims?
 - B. Location of victims?
 - C. What is the victim status? (Rescue or Recovery.)

- D. How fast is the current?
- E. What is the approximate water temperature?
- F. Where is the best access for medic units, WRT, launch site and staging?

2. Staffing Considerations

- A. Verify the Water Rescue Team has been activated.
- B. Is there a need for additional resources?
- C. Does the patient count warrant the establishment of a Medical Branch?
- D. Consider early notification of the PIO.

3. Safety Considerations

- A. All personnel will be in PFDs when operating within 10ft of the water.
- B. No turnouts, turnout boots or fire helmets allowed near the water.
- C. Establish down & up stream safeties – must have throw bags, PFD's & communications.

4. Establish a Mode of Operation.

- A. Surface Rescue Mode – Reach or Throw (Awareness Level Trained)
- B. In Water/Swift Water Mode – Row-Go-Tow-Helo (Operations Level Trained)
- C. Dive Operations Mode (Technician Level Trained)

CONFINED SPACE:

PROCEDURE

1. First arriving Company Officer completes incident size-up.

- A. Assume Command.
- B. Identify the exact location of the confined space.
- C. Identify what the space was used for.
- D. Is there mechanical or electrical equipment in the confined space?
- E. What is the victim status? (Rescue or Recovery.)
- F. Is there a need for additional Specialty Teams based upon the situation?

2. Initial Actions and Safety Considerations

- A. Position all apparatus and equipment at least 100 feet from space.
- B. Locate facility rep or on-site permit for space, if available.
- C. Prepare for Lock Out and Tag Out needs.
- D. Begin remote air monitoring of space.

3. Making Entry

- A. Confirm mode. Confirm and communicate plans. (RISK vs. BENEFIT)

Fire agencies will only make entry into a confined space if there is an immediate life threat problem. All other situations will be in support efforts until the technical rescue team arrives.

TRENCH RESCUE**PROCEDURE****1. First arriving Company Officer completes incident size-up.**

- A. Assume Command.
- B. Identify the exact location of the excavation.
- C. Determine the number of people trapped.
- D. What is the victim status? (Rescue or Recovery.)
- E. Contact Specialty Teams based upon the situation?

2. Actions/Safety Considerations

- A. Position all apparatus and equipment at least 150 feet from space.
- B. Shut off all heavy equipment in the area; reduce sources of vibration.
- C. Establish a perimeter and deny entry to all personnel.
- D. If safe to do so, remotely place an air monitor in the excavation.
- E. Provide for the welfare of co-workers until the Tech Team arrives.
- F. Call for a utility locate via dispatch.
- G. Stop all trains within a ½ mile of incident.

3. Pre-Shore

- A. Confirm and communicate plans. (RISK vs. BENEFIT)
- B. Identify positions for each team member.
- C. Request resources, as needed, early.

4. Establish an Incident/Accident Plan.

Members will only attempt a rescue under the Risk vs. Benefit system.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Do not deploy Awareness personnel in the vertical environment. True vertical environments are only to be handled at the Technician Level.
- Is there a need for the PIO?
- Establish a scene Safety Officer. The Technical Team will designate a Technical Safety Officer.
- Do not exceed level of training or experience at any time.
- Do not deploy non-water rescue trained firefighters in the water. Non-water rescue trained firefighters are to operate in the surface rescue mode only.
- Where death of the victim is certain, no personnel will be allowed into the excavation prior to changing the mode of operations and until the excavation is fully shored

