

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

