

**Manasquan Fire District #1
Manasquan Fire Department
Standard Operating Guideline**

600.02

**Title: Operational Considerations for
Water and Ice Rescues**

**Date Issued: July 18, 2012
Date Last Revised: NEW
Revision Number: NEW
Total Pages:**

Purpose: To establish the operational guidelines for the department's activities at all victim rescues involving water or ice specific scenarios. For the purposes of this guideline water rescues are considered those in which the patient/victim must be removed from surf, static, or swift water. Ice rescue shall also follow the same guidelines where noted.

Scope: The nature of "Water/Ice Rescues" may require an Incident Commander and other Rescuers to act outside of these guidelines. While this is understood, in all cases, the **safety of rescuers is paramount** to every operation. All personnel should be familiar with the limitations of all specialized equipment and should not deviate from the manufacturer's recommendations. Authority to deviate from these basis operational considerations rests with the Incident Commander. The guidelines found in NFPA1670 should also be considered as the industry standard for these operations.

General:

600.02.01 Water/Ice Rescue:

Purpose:

- To outline basic operating guidelines used at the scene of water/ice emergencies.
- The department recognizes the dangers to its personnel during any water or ice rescue; which takes members into the water. These operating guidelines are designed to ensure the safety of each rescuer during such operations.

Overview:

- The best rescue is no rescue and the department recognizes that prevention measures such as education on water/ice safety and awareness of these environments is paramount. Both to its members and the community.

Definitions:

Water Rescue Technician - Department members identified as having completed specialized training as outlined in NFPA 1670. All classes will be held at an approved training site and will follow NFPA 1670 operations or technician guideline. Also defined as a Rescue Swimmer.

- **Water Rescue Operations** - A member of the Manasquan Fire Department trained to support the water rescue technician. Will perform all facets of water/ice rescues except entering into the water or onto the ice.
- **Water Rescue Operations Chief**- Chief in charge of water, ice, and dive operations.
- **Scene Leader** – A qualified member on scene who will serve as liaison between the technical water/ice rescue members and the Incident Commander. The leader may have the responsibility of Safety Sector.
- **Swift Water**- Any water moving faster than one knot.
- **Static Water**- Water that is not moving, ponds, lakes etc.
- **Surf**- Any water body bordered by a beach or shoreline that has wave action.

Individual Responsibilities:

- The Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, or Acting Chief will be responsible for the overall incident command and control of the scene.
- The Incident Commander, with the assistance of the Scene Leader, will decide if the situation can be handled by the Manasquan Fire Department or if other teams/departments will be needed. The Incident Commander will coordinate with the Scene Leader on decisions involving number of rescuers to put on rope, equipment to be used, and additional support needs.
- The Fire Chief or training officer will organize training for water/ice technicians and all other department members.
- It will be the goal of each operation to provide flotation of any means to the victim as quickly as possible. This may be done by reach methods, throw methods, row, or as the last resort the go method (deploying the rescue swimmer)
- Other members of standard response assignment have the responsibility of supporting the rescue swimmer. Their primary responsibility is dressing out

and tending the rescue swimmer. And performing all other type rescues other than go rescues. The skills that these members can be expected to be performing are:

Reaching out to the distressed victim with poles, ladders etc.

Utilizing throw bags to victims

Rowing out in small vessels to victims or using PWCs and other water craft if available.

Setting up basic rope systems for victim and rescuer retrievals

Dressing out and deploying the rescue swimmers

Tending ropes that may be used by the rescue swimmer for victim retrieval

Packaging and removal of victims

Training Requirements:

- Technical Water Rescue members will be required to participate in a minimum of two training sessions in the spring and winter. One session will be classroom and the other session water or ice evolutions. There will be one additional session in the spring for pool training of rescue techniques.

Procedures:

- Initial response to all water/ice rescues will include the first alarm assignment, 1 Engine Company, 1 Truck, 1 BLS Ambulance, Dive Unit, and 1 Chief. Turnout gear will not be worn in the hot zone of water/ice rescues.

Alarm will be upgraded to a second alarm if a rescue is being undertaken.

ALS and ANSWER Team shall also respond.

Other resources that may be needed are USCG and Marine Police.

Assignments

Engine Driver- spotter tracker, monitors victim, rescuer, and will perform reach or throw rescue if possible. PFD, binoculars, throw bag, and rescue torpedo.

Rescue Swimmer #1 (RS1) - performs go rescue. Type V PFD, fins, torpedo, helmet, exposure protection if needed, and rope bucket, 600 feet ¼ inch line, attached to rear of PFD with quick release. May utilize rescue paddleboard if deemed necessary. Strobe or cyalume cold light stick attached to PFD during reduced visibility operations. All PFD's worn by rescue swimmers will have a whistle and cutting device attached to them.

Rescue Swimmer #2 (RS2) - backs up RS1, if multiple victims deploys at same time as RS1. Same equipment as RS1.

Rescue Swimmer Tenders- assists RS1 and RS2 in dressing out, deploying, tending lines and victim packaging and removal. They may also perform reach, throw, and row rescues.
Tenders shall utilize checklists whenever possible when dressing out Rescue Swimmers.

NOTE: All personnel in hot zone defined herein as within 15 feet of the waters edge shall wear PFDs.

Signals

Arm Signals

Stop	Arm straight up
Slacken line	Arm moving up and down vertically
Pull in line	Arm up making circle line pull is in a controlled steady Manner
Help	Arm overhead waving side to side

Whistle Signals

Stop	One blast
Slacken Line	Two blasts
Pull in line	Three blasts
Help	Four blasts

Scene Evaluation:

- (Upon arrival) to determine the number of victims and their locations
- Locate the quickest and safest route to take all personnel and equipment to the operation site, this may change if victims are in a rip or parallel current. Position rescue swimmers pro actively, remember running is faster than swimming.
- Determine safest most efficient point for victim removal
- All water/ice rescues shall be addressed at three levels of decision making:

Training

Equipment availability

Number of qualified members on the scene

Special Circumstances:

Submerged or submerging vehicle

Be aware of hydro carbon hazards and wear facemask and be wary fluid slicks.

Break out window closest to victim utilize center punch. Rear window is the largest opening.

Reach in and feel for victims do not breath hold and enter into vehicle.

Be aware of projectiles that may exit the vehicle spare tire etc.

Notify and prepare for dive operations. Will be need at any rate for vehicle removal.

Urban Flooding

High contamination risk sewage, household and industrial chemicals etc.

Strainer and hydraulics will be present utilize probing techniques as you proceed.

If rescuing vehicle occupants position yourself with the current at your back
In case vehicle shifts.

Electrical hazards may exist as well.