

## 4.26 Ice/Water Rescue

### Response Procedure:

A. In the event of a request for assistance with ice/water rescue, the first four ice/water rescue trained firefighters entering the 5371 shall don the two Mustang ice rescue suits and secure the equipment bag and rescue noodle. The remainder of the firefighters shall don turnout gear.

B. The first arriving officer on scene shall assume command (or working command) and immediately perform a size-up of the situation. The size-up shall include:

a. An attempt to gain verbal contact with the victim.

b. An attempt to determine how many victims there are by talking to the victim and/or bystanders.

c. An assessment of the need for additional resources. If there is any possibility the Outagamie Dive Team may be needed have them dispatched immediately as it takes them time to gather and get to the scene.

d. Finding out where the victim(s) entered the ice if it is on ice.

e. Recognition of hazards (i.e. bad ice, weather, access, etc.)

f. A determination on whether it is a rescue or recovery.

g. Development of an action plan.

h. A determination on which method of rescue to use (Reach, Throw, Go).

C. If the determination is made to try a Reach or Throw rescue, the crew from the first arriving apparatus shall use pike poles and/or rope bags to assist in bringing the victim to shore.

D. The second arriving apparatus that has ice rescue equipment on it shall begin setting up for a Row or a Go rescue, depending on the situation, in the event that the Reach and/or Throw attempts fail.

E. If the initial determination is made to perform a Row or a Go rescue, the crew from the first arriving apparatus shall immediately begin setting up and preparing tether lines and attaching them to the rescuer(s) or the RDC. For a Row rescue, 2 rescuers will deploy the RDC. For a Go rescue, one rescuer with a rescue noodle shall be used for a conscious victim; two rescuers with a rescue noodle shall be used for an unconscious victim. The remainder of the crew (including the driver operator) shall tend the tether line(s). If it is dark outside and lighting is needed, the driver operator may be used to set up lighting.

F. Upon arrival of the second apparatus, that crew shall assist in tending the tether lines for the rescue crews.

G. In the event that there is more than one victim, the back-up crew shall become the rescue crew when the initial rescue crew has the first victim to a safe area.

H. The remaining apparatus crew (including the driver operator) shall assist in tending the tether lines as needed. This crew shall also be prepared to assist with EMS.

I. When the victim(s) are all on shore, fire department personnel shall assist the First Responders and Gold Cross with any needs in regards to EMS care.

J. A PAR shall be conducted once all emergency operations are complete.

Recovery Operations: If the determination is made by incident command that it will be a recovery, the fire department will work with law enforcement to assist in recovering the body. In the event we are requested to assist with a body recovery incident, the fire department will also work with law enforcement to assist in the recovery.

Outagamie Dive Team Request: 4 member dive team with 2 boats and sonar units. In the event that the Dive Team may be needed, make the request ASAP!! Time is critical, they may not be as close to the scene as the Fire Department. If they get there and are not needed, that is ok.

Things to do before they get there:

- A. Document and/or diagram the scene to help witness/ help brief divers etc.
- B. LSP-Last Seen Point. Establish exactly where the witness was when the victim was last seen. Keep the witness in that same location. Mark that spot with an orange cone
- C. Try to pick out a stationary land mark on the other side of the water and mark it.
- D. Estimate the distance from shore to LSP. (Will try to mark this later with diver)
- E. Victim vehicle? Bike? Or other object left on shore by victim?

Time Frame:

- A. Is it within the "Golden Hour"?
- B. When did the witness arrive?
- C. How long has it been since the victim was last seen on shore?
- D. How long has it been since the victim was last seen in the water?

Description of Victim:

- A. Clothing, objects they had with them, scars, marks, tattoos, hair color, etc.

Hazards:

- A. Is anyone here familiar with this body of water?
- B. Known hazards?

Dive Team Deployment- Divers will set upon shore near the water, or divers will deploy from a boat. Divers may need FD help to transport gear using their ATV type vehicle.

Dive team will deploy 2 divers:

1 initial diver and 1 safety diver (Remains on the surface until needed). A second initial diver may be used depending on the type of dive. They may need 1 FD member to be a rope tender or communicate via headset.

Ice diving operations:

They may need to use FD ATV, boat or other flotation equipment on ice.

Communications:

- A. Ropes or communication mask/headset.
- B. Remember to communicate quietly!! No yelling!! Victim's family may over hear us.

Body Removal:

- A. Rescue effort-if located within "golden hour"- body immediately removed from water.
- B. Recovery effort- if known to be under water for extended period of time, use body bag.

Medical Assessment:

- A. First Responders
- B. Gold Cross Medical Staff

Turn over scene to Outagamie County Sheriff's Department

## TRAINING

The fire department training division shall provide ice and water rescue training on an annual

basis during department drills. It will be the responsibility of the firefighters to ensure that they complete the required training.

**GENERAL SAFETY:**

A. At no time shall any fire department personnel go out onto ice or into water without a Stearns ice rescue suit with ice picks in it and a tether line attached to them.

B. A back-up team of at least two firefighters with Mustang ice rescue suits with ice picks in it, and a tether line attached shall be put into place on shore as soon as possible whenever there are fire department personnel on the ice or in the water.

C. All rescue operations should be considered and executed in order from low risk to high risk. The proper order shall be "Reach, Throw, Row, Go".

- REACH with whatever means possible (pike pole, ladder, etc.).
- THROW with a rope bag.
- ROW out to the victim with the Rapid Deployment Craft (RDC)
- GO onto the ice or into the water to rescue the victim.