

Operating Guidelines

Section: Water & Ice Rescue

Subject: Ice Rescue

Number: 301

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Guidelines

301.1

The following general areas of rescue sequence shall be addressed by the responding firefighters prior to service delivery:

- a) Responders be trained to the required level
- b) Wear all required PPE
- c) Exit vehicle with all required equipment
- d) Establish the team as a minimum of a commander, primary and secondary rescuer, two rope handlers per rescuer and an initial rescuer to make immediate visual or verbal contact with victim(s) upon development at the scene.
- e) Rescue sequence shall include all or some of the normal procedures, self rescue, throw, reach, go or boat based.
- f) Staging area should be shore, an area on the ice determined to be safe ice, or a boat. Staging is determined by circumstances at the scene.

301.2

All participating departments shall establish their own guidelines for the duration a rescue attempt should be made on sub-surface victims at the scene. All Mutual Aid departments will adhere to the host department's guideline on times. An accepted reasonable standard is two (2) hours after submersion or two (2) hours after arrival on scene.