

		<p>MUKWONAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT</p> <p>OPERATING PROCEDURES</p>	
Water/Ice Rescue Operations		Approved by: Chief Jeffrey R. Stien	
SOG #18	Draft Date: 10-13-09	Revision Date:02-02-16	Effective Date:02/25/16

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines and procedures for the safe and efficient conduct of cold and ice water rescue operations, maximizing firefighter safety when dealing with water related incidents.

SCOPE: These guidelines and procedures will be used during any cold water or ice rescue operation within the department response area and on mutual aid calls to other departments per NFPA 1670.

Objective: To provide a guideline in the response of water rescue & recovery personnel.

- Responsibility:**
- A. The Fire Chief shall establish and maintain guidelines for the response to water rescue & recovery incidents.
 - B. All officers, firefighters, water rescue & recovery personnel and EMS personnel shall become familiar with this standard operating guideline and its intent.

PROCEDURE: MFD divers and rescue personnel shall be paged. They shall report to their primary station unless advised otherwise. The first diver that arrives at the station shall assist the boat operator in connecting the Dive Truck to the boat. They shall make sure that all equipment is present and working on the boat prior to departure. There should be at least three MFD personnel responding with the Dive Truck/boat.

- A. The first unit or officer on scene will assume as the Incident Commander.
- B. The first diver on location shall establish and oversee the Dive Officer information as possible. Information includes: number of victims, last known location, any landmarks to indicate their last known location and status of the victim. Once they have the necessary information the witness will be detained for further inquiries.

- C. The IC and first on scene diver will perform a risk vs. benefits analysis, and hazard analysis for that specific location. The mode of Rescue vs. Recovery will be determined.
- D. Protective clothing can be worn to protect them from the weather. Full turnout gear is not recommended. All rescue personnel within 10 feet of the shoreline, on the boat or ice will wear personal flotation devices.
- E. Once additional divers arrive on location they shall report to Operations or the Dive Officer. The plan of action shall be conveyed to all participants of the dive team. If a rescue pattern is to be used, the pattern shall be specified at this time. At this time a Dive Officer, Shore Officer, Boat Officer and Rehab Officer will be established if not already completed. Each of the Officers shall get their clipboards, vests, and other pertinent materials at this time. As time permits, a P.I.O., IC assistant & media area will be established as needed.
- F. Once the Shore Officer has been established they shall be in constant contact with IC to inform him/her of any changes that are conveyed by the respective tenders of each of the divers. He/she shall make sure that the back-up divers and their tenders are equipped and ready to go. Boat Officer is to be established to keep IC updated as to any new information.
- G. The diver and tender shall report to the water line and will not enter until permission given by the Dive Officer. The diver will be tendered at all times during operations. All safety equipment will be checked in triplicate prior to diving.
- H. Once the victim is located proper signal shall be given to the tender while maintaining control of the victim, the tender will inform the IC. Family and bystanders shall be removed from the area prior to body removal. If unable to remove the victim then the body will be marked via a buoy and triangulate the location.
- I. PAR shall be taken at regular intervals
- J. If responding to an ice rescue call the same procedure will be followed but rescuers will don ice rescue suits.

B. Resources

There shall **be no fire apparatus on the ice**. The only exception would be the six-wheeler at the IC's discretion and only when 6' or more of ice are present.

Additional resources to be considered:

- Notify mutual aid departments with special considerations given to those with equipment and training in cold water/ice rescue/dive teams

- Additional ambulances for divers and emergency personnel
- Life Flight
- Waukesha Memorial Hospital
- Waukesha County Sheriff dive team representative
- Local police for crowd and traffic control

C. OPERATIONS

DETAILED RESQ DISC™ THROWING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Pull the tab on the Velcro strap that holds the string in place.
2. Unwind 20 feet or more of line and let it drop to the ground.
3. Stick your first two fingers into the loop on the strap end of the rope.
4. Put your right hand thumb into the thumb indent.
5. Pretend you are in the left hand batter's box on a baseball diamond and want to throw the disc to the pitcher 90 feet away.
6. Pull your right hand back behind you, like you would if you had a bat ready to hit a pitch, rotate your shoulders back like a wind up with a bat.
7. When you throw, pull the disc in a straight line across your chest and extend your arm pointing at the pitcher who is your target.
8. Keep the disc horizontal (parallel or level to the ground) as you release it.
9. When you release the disc at the end of the throw, your wrist will snap the disc and cause it to rotate shedding the line.

Click here for an [instructional video made by Fox News](#).

DISTANCE TIPS:

If the disc curves left: You had it tipped down when you released it. If the disc curves right: You had it tipped up when you released it. When it goes straight, you had the disc level when you released it and will get the best distance and accuracy.

RE-THROW TIPS:

In an emergency, when you are not able to walk laterally to pull the disc to the victim and need to re-throw, just put 6 wraps of rope on the disc and leave the rest on the ground. Throw as before. For 50 foot re-throws, throw the disc without re-winding the rope.

IF YOU NEED TO THROW OVER 100 FEET:

Loop the ends of 2 disc into each other and form a knot. Unwrap 50 feet from the 2nd Disc, dropping it to the ground. Leave all the line on the throwing disc and it will take the line on the ground and unwrap all the line from the thrown disc. Using this technique, you can throw the

disc 135 to 140 feet. Some Disc Golf Players can reach 150 feet and more. The more you practice, as with any skill, the better you become.

IF YOU ARE LEFT HANDED:

If you are left handed, reverse the batter's box. In addition, right handed throwers wrap the rope on the disc clockwise facing the label, while left handers wrap the rope counter clockwise.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Do not throw the Disc at hard surfaces such as trees or buildings. Use the Disc only in actual rescue situations. For ICE RESCUES have the victim put the disc between their legs and turn the disc 90 degrees and cross their legs on the disc. Then have them use their free hands to climb on the edge of the ice while you pull them up from a sitting position.

DETAILED ROPE BAG DEPLOYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

Click here for instructional video <https://youtu.be/2zJOL40GOtc>

DETAILED RESCUE ALIVE SLED DEPLOYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

Click here for instructional video <https://youtu.be/7WYIC0oEzlk>