

# TECH. RESCUE – WATER RESCUE

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS: TRT PLAN ALSO AVAILABLE

- The first arriving Company Officer will assume Incident Command and prepare for Unified Command with Law Enforcement and a TRT representative (if applicable).
- First Responders will not enter the water without technical water rescue training and full water rescue technician protective attire.
- Protective Equipment for **First Responders**: Normal station uniform with donned type III/V PFD with whistle, radio, and a hand light; water helmet preferred.
- Protective Equipment for **Water Rescue Technician**: Type V PFD with whistle, knife, and water rescue helmet, radio, protective water footwear, and garment appropriate for ambient outside and water temperature.
- NO TURNOUTS within 10 feet of the water!
- Some of these requirements may be in effect during other incidents - MVC, Disaster response, flood, etc.
- First Responders will only assume shore-based rescue attempts and support technical water rescue operations unless fully equipped and presented with a situation that has a chance for success. **Know your crew's limitations....**

## CONSIDERATIONS:

- All personnel within 10 feet of the water will wear a PFD and rescue helmet.
- **No Turnouts within 10 feet of the water!**
- Assign multiple Down Stream safeties. Safeties should be spaced out downstream with each member having a throw bag. This person needs a whistle, radio, and hand light.
- Assign an upstream spotter to warn responders of hazards and warn other river users. This person needs a whistle, radio, and hand light.
- Do not tie a rope around a rescuer. A tethered rescuer must have a quick release capability.
- Initiate a backup plan simultaneously with plan A.
- Once contact is made with victims, never release them until the rescue is completed.
- Use the lowest risk rescue option available and **KEEP IT SIMPLE**.
- **See Decontamination of Personnel protocol (if needed).**

## PROTOCOL:

1. Complete an incident size up and provide an Arrival Report.
2. Identify and retain witnesses at the scene.
3. Establish victim(s) description and situation.
4. Determine and mark the victim's point last seen.
5. Determine victim status (Rescue or Recovery).
6. Over the radio, declare the operational mode: Rescue or Recovery.
7. Request ECSO to initiate an incident timer if not already done.

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8. Determine the best access to the incident scene for other responders; stage arriving units.
9. Identify resource needs; dispatch additional companies or the TRT.
10. Establish Command and prepare for Unified Command with Law Enforcement.
11. Prepare an incident action plan including a back-up rescue plan(s) with assistance from the TRT (if deployed).
12. Consider the need for specialized incident management and support (i.e. JCSO Search & Rescue, air resources, etc.).
13. Establish and maintain verbal contact with the victim(s).
14. Provide floatation to the victim(s).
15. Operations:
  - Self-rescue
  - Reach
  - Throw
  - Row (boat based rescue)
  - Go (swim rescue)
  - Tow (tethered rescue)
  - Helo (helicopter rescue)