

3.5.3.1 Ice Rescue



YOUR ORGANIZATION
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

TITLE: Ice Rescue

SECTION/TOPIC: Special Rescue Operations

NUMBER: 3.5.3.1

ISSUE DATE:

REVISED DATE:

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

X

Preparer

X

Approver

These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

1.0 POLICY REFERENCE

CFR	
NFPA	
NIMS	

2.0 PURPOSE

This standard operating procedure/guideline addresses response to and operations during ice rescues; may include specific information about equipment use and maintenance.

To establish guidelines and procedures for the safe and efficient conduct of ice and cold water rescue operations.

3.0 SCOPE

This SOP/SOG pertains to all personnel in this organization.

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

4.0 DEFINITIONS

These definitions are pertinent to this SOP/SOG.

5.0 PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

5.1 Response to and Operations during Ice Rescues:

Procedure:

Upon receipt of an alarm for a cold water or ice rescue emergency, the department will respond with an engine, one ladder, one heavy rescue, and EMS Units. Personnel, cold water rescue suits, water rescue rope and the Rescue Alive Sled with Water Rescue Jaws attached. Marine 1 and / or the snowmobile (SERV1) should also be considered based upon the season and incident location.

1. The senior officer or member on the scene will establish Incident Command (IC). The incident commander on the scene is responsible for the following actions.
 - a) Determine the number of victims, their condition and their last know location if they can not be seen from shore.
 - b) Notify Fire Alarm of the situation, including the number of patients, and the location of the command post.
2. The communications center should notify the following immediately.
 - a) If requested by Incident Command, notify mutual aid departments with special consideration given to those with equipment and training in cold water and ice rescue.
 - b) If requested by Incident Command, ensure that an adequate number of ambulances are responding for the patients and emergency scene personnel.
 - c) If requested by EMS, notify the nearest Hospital and if necessary the nearest Trauma Center with Life Flight capability.
 - d) Cumberland police for crowd and traffic control.
 - e) If requested by Incident Command, notify local or mutual aid dive teams.
 - f) Of requested by Incident Command, notify State of Maine Warden Services with dive teams or equipment.
 - g) Any other services determined by the IC.

The IC will continue to direct the operation of local and mutual aid companies. Should the operation change from a rescue to a body recovery Incident Command may be passed to the State of Maine Warden Service or the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency.

3. Safety of all personnel responding to the scene will be paramount. Safety procedures will include but not be limited to the following:

- a) These procedures are for the safety and protection of human life. Animal rescues are at the discretion of the IC and should only be attempted if the safety of the rescuers can be assured. Dog snare should be used.
- b) All operations will be performed by trained personnel who are familiar with and physically capable of performing duties and tasks required.
- c) Primary rescuers and back up personnel will be equipped with cold water rescue and or immersion suits. Whenever possible the primary rescuer using “Rescue Alive” should be equipped with the Stearns 1-595 Ice Rescue Suit or equivalent and helmet. Back up personnel should wear 1-595 type suits or immersion (gumby type) suits if I595 suits are not available. Primary rescuer using Rescue Alive should leave hood down and wear helmet. This enhances hearing and protects head from injury. Those personnel utilizing gumbee suits without a built in harness, shall utilize a harness before initiating the rescue.
- d) All personnel working on shore within 15 feet of the water should be equipped with a Stearns type float jacket or type III USCG approved PFD.
- e) Tether lines will be attached to the front D ring harness of the Ice Rescue Suit of all personnel engaged in GO or CONTACT rescues. Appropriate shore crew will control tether lines and ensure that ropes, carabineers, zippers are good to go.
- f) Tethering procedures for Rescue Alive will include the use of one red rope (minimum tensile strength of 2000lbs). attached to the tether hitch of the sled, and one yellow rope (minimum tensile strength of 2000 lbs) attached to the front “D” ring of the Ice Rescue suit. Use the simple rhyme “Red to the Sled”. This is called the TWO line system. When it is necessary to travel further than the two line system will allow you must connect the two lines together with a carabineer and one end to the sled with a carabineer. A separate length of rope may be used with a loop on each end to tether the rescuer to the sled or by measuring approx. on arms length and a half from the end of the rope; place a loop at that point and using a carabineer attach that loop the tether hitch of the sled. The end of the rope now attaches to the front “D” ring of the suit. This method tethers both the sled and rescuer to shore. This system is referred to as the ONE line system.
- g) Primary and back up rescuers should be equipped with “Pick of Life” ice awls for their own use or for use by the victim.
- h) Each person involved in the rescue operation should have a back up person to take over if needed.

- i) Rest and medical monitoring of all personnel in a warm vehicle or shelter should be provided at regular intervals. The EMS team leader or safety officer will declare any rescuer unfit to continue and will notify the IC.
 - j) Adequate lighting and flashlights capable of hands free operations should be available for night operations.
 - k) Shore crew should obtain a water sample at the scene. This sample will be transported to the medical facility with the victim for possible evaluation by medical personnel.
4. Initial response of fire and EMS personnel will include the vehicle carrying “Rescue Alive” and all associated equipment followed by at least one vehicle for lighting and support functions. Two personnel are required for the safe use of “Rescue Alive”. However when it is possible a minimum of 10(ten) personnel should be utilized for optimum safety as follows:
- **Incident Commander**
 - **Safety Officer**
 - **Primary Rescuer**
 - **Secondary Rescuer**
 - **Two Person Backup Team**
 - **Four Person Shore Crew**

At no time will any team member attempt a “go or contact rescue” without proper back up, a cold water suit and tether line to shore.

YOU MUST!!

Assess your personnel, your equipment, the number of victims and their condition, the ice conditions and you access options. Immediately establish communications with the patient(s).

Keep communicating with patient throughout the attempt. Your first question must be!!!

“ARE YOU ALONE”?

Regardless of training or equipment each rescuer must be prepared to deal with a personal emergency...

EQUIPMENT CHECK LIST:

- Rescue Alive
- Ice Rescue Suits: minimum of 2 for primary & back up rescuer / wool socks
- Water Rescue Jaws
- Water Rescue Rope: enough to cover your response areas (min. 2x300 feet)

- Carabineers: 2 per length of rope plus extras
- Pick of Life: 1 set per rescuer at a minimum
- Water Rescue Helmets: 1 for primary and 1 for secondary rescuer
- PFD's: enough for shore crew, safety officer and IC
- Water Proof Gloves for shore crew & rope handlers
- Water Sample Bottle: save sample for possible medical evaluation
- Lighting: for scene and personal use
- Throw Bags: 1 for primary and 1 for secondary rescuer
- Stokes Basket or Backboard Ice Screws: for tethering personnel or equipment on safe ice
- Dog Snare: Never make physical contact with the animal & never leave the safety of the Rescue Alive platform in animal rescues.

5.2 Use of Equipment during Ice Rescues:

5.3 Maintenance of Equipment used during Ice Rescues: