

# Hauser Lake Fire Protection District

## Standard Operating Guideline OPERATIONS: Ice Rescue

Effective: \_10/01/08

SOG 800

### **Purpose:**

To establish guidelines Ice Rescue operations.

### **Objective:**

To provide operational guidelines for Personnel to achieve their tactical objectives within priority.

### **Scope:**

Applies to all personnel responding to an Ice Rescue Emergency.

### **Responsibility:**

It is the responsibility of Incident Commander and Officers to see that these guidelines are followed.

### **Guideline:**

It is the responsibility of an engine company to keep in mind their tactical priorities as listed:

1. Life safety, rescue
2. Protect property
  - A. Control the situation
  - B. Secure the scene
  - C. Restore and release the scene.

### **801.00 General Definitions**

#### 801.01 Awareness Level:

A firefighter that is not trained to fight fire and/or do rescues:

1. Minimum level of training is required to assist from the shore.

#### 801.02 Operational Level:

A firefighter that has his/her basic level of fire fighting and/or rescue training:

1. Minimum level of training to respond to an ice rescue emergency.
2. This level is mainly task oriented on an emergency.

#### 801.03 Technician Level:

A firefighter that has had 2 (two) years or more experiences in fire fighting and/or ice rescue.

1. Minimum level for assuming team leader on an emergency.

This level is designed for basic strategies and tactics on a typical technical rescue/fire operation.

#### 801.04 Specialist Level:

A firefighter that has had 4 (four) years or more fire fighting and/or rescue experience.

1. Highest trained level on the fire departments rescue/fire team.
2. This level is mainly strategic oriented and is used in the incident command system as an informational resource for the commander.
3. This person can also be used as OPS Chief (operations).

**801.05 Team Leader:**

A firefighter or fire officer shall be one of the most trained personnel on the team. The highest trained person on the fire department for the type of rescue/fire you are responding to. This person may assume IC (Incident Command).

**802.00 Safety:**

802.01 All personnel on the haul team within 10 foot of the shoreline will have a PFD (personal flotation device) securely attached to them.

- a. If there is enough PFD's, all personnel within 25 foot of the shoreline will have a PFD on and securely fastened. If there is not enough PFD's, then the rest of the crew will have to stay clear of this area.

802.02 All personnel handling the rope must wear leather gloves.

802.03 There will be no horseplay on or around the ice.

802.04 No one will be on the ice without a rescue suit.

802.05 When a rescuer is out on the ice, the rescue suit must be zipped up and a carabineer locked with a haul line secured to it. A haul team shall be ready to perform.

802.06 When the rescuer is out on the Ice, the hood of the rescue suit shall be over the rescuer's head and securely fastened.

802.07 There will be no running on the shore or on the ice.

802.08 When cutting the hole in the ice for training:

- a. The person running the saw will have some type of cold-water rescue suit on in case he/she falls into the water.
- b. There shall be a back up rescuer suited up, ready to go with his/her own back up team to assist if needed.
- c. Whenever the saw is on the ice, there shall be a rope tied to it at all times.
  1. This rope does not have to be a float rope.
  2. The person running the saw will be wearing leather chaps.

802.08 If available, sand or dirt should be placed on the ice, around the shore, and where the haul teams will be working.

- a. Do not put sand or dirt around the hole in the ice.

**803.00 Responding to an Ice Emergency:**

803.01 Rescue 780 will be the first truck out the door.

- a. The best choice of personnel to be first on an ice rescue run shall be Specialist, Technicians, Operations and then Awareness level trained, in this order. If the personnel are not available, then anyone that has been cleared by the chief or a senior officer may respond.

- 803.03 Be aware of icy road conditions.
  - a. If needed, 4-wheel drive should be used.
  - b. Do not over drive. Consider road conditions.
  - c. Take extra caution driving around the lake in ice/snow conditions.
- 803.04 When placing Rescue 780 on scene, leave plenty of room for other emergency vehicles responding to the scene.
  - a. Leave Rescue 780 running and turn the heater on high in the back of the ambulance.
  - b. Remove blankets from compartments and place them on the gurney so they are ready to be placed on the victim(s).
- 803.04 U781 Will be second unit out.
- 803.05 Brush 751 will be the third unit out of the station.
  - a. When positioning B-751 on scene after dark, park approximately 50 feet from the front of the scene and turn on scene lighting.

#### **804.00 Ice-Water Rescue operations**

- 804.01 On all ice rescue emergencies, the ICS system will be used.
  - a. All personnel will follow under the ICS system.
- 804.02 If manpower permits, a minimum of 2 (two) rescuers will suit up to go on the ice.
  - a. When a rescuer goes out on the ice, the rescue suit will be zipped up all the way and the hood pulled over their head and securely fastened.
  - b. A dry suit (for diving) may be worn, but a PFD must be worn with it.
  - c. If you do not have enough manpower or equipment, mutual aid shall be called.
    - 1. Mutual aid can come from any local fire department.
  - d. The number two person on the ice shall be a backup.
    - 1. This person can also assist the lead rescuer if needed.
    - 2. If the backup rescuer goes out to asset, then a minimum of one more person will suit up and be a back up rescuer.
  - e. If there is a Kootenai County Rescuer Diver in the fire department, then this person will put his/her dry suit (for diving) on and can go out on the ice to do a rescue as long as he/she has a PFD on.
    - 1. If personnel permit, these personnel shall be ready to get dive gear out and ready as needed. If possible, the diver should be a backup rescuer and shall stay close to the shore. This will allow him/her to be ready to dive if needed.
- 804.03 Confirm with central (dispatch) that the dive team has been paged out.
- 804.04 If possible, do the reach or throw method before going out on the ice.
- 804.05 All ropes being used will be float ropes.
- 804.06 The safety officer or team leaders shall check rescue carabineers and knots before rescuer(s) goes out on the ice.
- 804.07 Team leaders of the haul teams must have a minimum of operations level of training to be in charge of the haul team.
  - a. There will be a minimum of 3 (three) personnel per haul team.
    - 1. Team leader, and two personnel to help pull the rope.
    - 2. All three personnel shall wear leather gloves.

3. All three personnel shall wear a PFD.
- 804.08 Rescuers that go out on the ice will have a minimum of technician level of training.
- 804.09 If a rescuer does not feel safe with the operations or does not feel safe with the ice, he/she may tell his/her immediate supervisor so the supervisor a new plan can be implemented, or replace the rescuer as long as it is not a life-threatening situation.
- a. No one will be forced to do anything they feel they cannot do.
  - b. If a rescuer feels his/her safety is at risk, he/she may stop the operation.
  - c. The rescuer(s) safety is always first.
- 804.10 If needed, put sand down in the area of operations to help personnel with traction.
- 804.11 When approaching the victim, talk to them.
- a. Enter the hole from the opposite side of the victim.
  - b. Enter the water feet first, facing the ice shelf.
  - c. Rope and carabineer shall be ready to go and tangle free before entering the water.
  - d. Enter the water slowly to prevent waves.
  - e. Approach the victim from behind, keep talking to him/her to insure that they know what you are doing, and what you are about to do.
  - f. When placing the rope around the victim, insure the rope is up under the victim's armpits, and the rope is not wrapped around any body parts.
  - g. Insure victim is safely secured before giving the haul sign.
  - h. Tap the top of your head for the haul signal.
  - i. As the haul team starts pulling the victim out of the water, grab under the victim and help pick them up and out of the water.
  - j. After the rescuer and the victim are out of the water, the rescuer shall pull the victim gently on top of them so the victim will have a smooth ride to shore.
- 804.12 When handling a victim, it must be done gently.
- 804.13 The haul team will gently pull the rescuer and the victim out of the water.
- 804.14 When haul team has the rescuer and victim all the way to the shore, the haul team and or EMS will assume victim care.
- 804.15 If the patient has drowned, the status of the operation goes from rescue operation to a recovery operation and the operations will be turned over to the Kootenai County Dive Team.
- 804.16 After the rescue/recovery is complete, the team leader(s) will insure all equipment is picked up before leaving the scene.
- 804.17 If the victim is over 300 feet off the shore, then more personnel will be needed. All rescue personnel shall don rescue suits and the haul team shall set up haul operations on the ice providing the ice is thick enough.
- a. The ice screw will be used in this operation as an anchor.
  - b. If the ice is thin, rescue personnel shall be spread out to distribute weight evenly.

## **805.00 Equipment care**

- 805.01 All equipment shall be laid out on a tarp while on a rescue mission or training.

805.02 Keep all ropes out of the dirt and mud.

- a. There will be no smoking around the ropes.
- b. Keep all personnel from walking on the ropes.
- c. Keep all sharp objects clear from the ropes.
- d. If needed, place an edge protector to protect the rope from sharp edges.

805.03 When returning from a rescue or training, all ropes shall be inspected for nicks or loose threads.

- a. Any problem with the integrity of any rope shall be brought to the attention of the person in charge of equipment or an officer.
- b. All ropes shall have the knots removed and washed (on medium) and hung to dry.
- c. As soon as the rope is dried, it shall be properly placed back in the bags and put back in service.
  1. When placing the rope back in the bag, one end of the rope shall be tied to the inside of the bag if it has a place to tie to do so.
  2. If there is a hole in the bottom of the bag to run the rope through, the rope shall run through the hole and tied with a figure eight on the outside of the bag.
  3. Feed the rope into the bag hand to hand, sliding the rope through your hands allows inspection of the rope as it is placed in the bag is layered in the bag properly.
  4. Place a directional figure eight 5 ½ feet from the end of the rope facing the short end of the rope.
  5. Put a figure eight at the end of the rope with a safety knot.
  6. Place a locking carabineer on the directional figure eight and a non-locking Carabineer (pair) on the figure eight at the end of the rope.
- d. After all the rope is placed in the bag, place three pairs of gloves on the inside, top of the bag and pull the tie string tight.
- e. The carabineers need to be cleaned and checked to insure they work freely.
  1. If needed, apply lubrication on the hinge and or locking part of the Carabineer.

805.04 Check rescue suits for all types of damage.

- a. Remove the liner and wash the outer part of the suit and hang the suit upside down to dry.
- b. If the liner is wet, then it will be hung dried.
- c. When the rescue suit is dried, snap the liner back inside the suit.
- d. Before putting the suit away, rub wax on the outer part of the zipper.

805.05 Prior to winter, all rescue suits shall be removed from the gear bags and inspected.

805.06 Prior to winter, all rope bags shall be checked to insure that each bag has all the proper equipment inside.

## 806.00 **EMS and patient care:**

806.01 Life safety of the rescuer(s) is of utmost importance.

- 806.01 When handling a patient in the water, the patient must be handled very gently to prevent patient from going into full arrest.
- a. If a patient has gone unconscious, keep their head above the water and maintain c-spine.
  - b. If a patient is in full arrest, carefully continue with the rescue and continue to attempt c-spine precaution while being pulled out of the water.
  - c. While being pulled to shore, work on the patient's airway.
  - d. Do not attempt to perform CPR in the water or on the ice. Patient must be taken to the shore as soon as possible and CPR performed on shore.
  - e. When patient is pulled to shore, place the patient on a back board and get them to the ambulance as soon as possible.
  - f. If warranted, place the patient in the helicopter.
- 806.02 When a victim's body core temperature falls below 95o, hypothermia occurs. You shall closely monitor victim's vital signs.
- a. The victim shall be passed onto advanced medical personnel.
  - b. Rapid transport to the hospital.
  - c. It is important to prevent further heat loss and injury to the patient.
- 806.03 If the patient has drowned, then the status of this goes from rescue operation to a recovery operation and the operations will be turned over to the Kootenai County Dive Team.
- a. If needed, fire personnel will assist the dive team with their equipment.
    1. This may consist with hauling gear to the edge of the ice, or could mean hauling the equipment out on the ice.
    2. The Fire District will help the Sheriff's Department in any way they can as long as it is within their individual training.
    3. When the dive team pulls the victim out of the water, fire district personnel will assist getting the victim to shore.

#### 807.00 **Shore support:**

- 807.01 The number one concern is the safety of the rescuers.
- 807.02 The team leader shall keep his/her eyes on the rescuer at all times while the rescuer is out on the ice.
- a. There will be one team leader per rescuer.
  - b. The team leader will be in charge of the haul team and will be responsible for insuring the operation goes as smooth as possible.
  - c. If there is more the one rescuer, more haul teams will be needed.
    1. There shall be a haul team for every rescuer on the ice.
- 807.03 When a rescuer goes out on the ice, the hall team must be ready to pull the rescuer in on a moment's notice.
- a. As soon as the rescuer gives the sign to be pulled from the water (taps on the top of his/her head with an up and down motion), the haul team shall gently pull until the patient and rescuer are all the way out of the water.
  - b. The team leader shall monitor operations to insure scene safety.

1. If the team leader instructs the haul team to “stop”, the haul team must stop operations immediately, and wait until the team leader directs them to resume operations.
- 807.04 The haul team will stay together until the rescuer is off the ice.
- 807.05 Shore support personnel shall lay tarps for all rescue equipment.
- a. It is the responsibility of the shore support personnel to keep track of all equipment during an emergency operation.
  - b. If any equipment is needed during a rescue, shore support personnel that are not on a haul team shall acquire the equipment.
- 807.06 Shore support personnel shall be responsible for helping the Kootenai County Sheriff’s Dive Team with their dive equipment if needed.
- 807.07 When the rescue operations are completed, the team leaders shall insure all equipment is picked up and accounted for.

**808.00 Responding to a Mutual Aid Call:**

- 808.01 Rescue 780 will respond with a minimum of two (2) personnel.
- a. The minimum training level of these two personnel will be Technician level.
  - b. If there are other personnel on board, they may have a lesser training level.
  - c. If there is more personnel then R-780 can hold, then the higher training level personnel will be the first to respond.
  - d. If needed, a second vehicle may respond.
- 808.02 All personnel shall wear seat belts while responding to a mutual aid call.
- 808.03 The officer in charge of the crew will be responsible for insuring all equipment is accounted for and is ready for the next call.
- 808.04 Personnel shall follow the incident command system.
- a. If there is a life safety issue during a rescue operation, personnel shall tell the officer in charge or safety officer immediately.
  - b. Not all fire departments do rescues the same way, therefore, it is important to remain flexible with our rescue operation.
- 808.06 All personnel shall clear the rescue scene and return to Hauser Lake Fire District’s area of response as soon as possible.

**809.00 Training:**

- 809.01 Ice rescue training will follow the same safety rules as an ice rescue.
- a. The ICS system shall be used.
- 809.02 There will be an EMS unit standing by while training is being done on the ice.
- a. This unit will have a minimum of two (2) medically trained personnel.
  - b. A minimum of one (1) EMT shall be on this crew.
  - c. The EMS unit shall be responsible for keeping The EMS unit warm during inclement weather.
- 809.03 There will be a minimum of one instructor on the ice per rescue operation.
- a. If there are two rescue operations going at one time, then there shall be a minimum of two (2) instructors.

- b. One instructor shall be on the shore and one instructor shall be on the ice.
  - c. While one instructor is on the shore and one instructor is on the ice, there shall not be two (2) rescue operations going on simultaneously.
- 809.04 When cutting a hole in the ice, there shall be a back up person standing by.
- a. The person cutting the hole in the ice shall wear a rescue suit.
  - b. A pair of leather chaps shall be worn when cutting a hole in the ice.
  - c. A rope shall be tied onto the saw before the saw goes onto the ice.
  - d. The backup person shall hold onto the rope that is tied to the saw to help prevent the rope from being cut during the ice hole cutting operation.
  - e. The ice hole shall be cut in a three foot by three foot by three foot triangle.
- 809.05 Contact dispatch and inform them of where the training is to be held.
- 809.06 After the training is over, the ice hole must be marked with some type of ribbon or safety cones.