

Hauser Lake Fire Protection District

Standard Operating Guideline Fire Boat Operations

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SOG 017

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I. General Definitions of Team Members:

A. Awareness Level:

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

- a. Minimum level of training required to assist “from the shore”.

B. Operational Level:

A firefighter that has his/her basic level of firefighting and/or rescue:

- a. Minimum level of training to respond on the fireboat.
- b. This level is mainly task oriented on an emergency.

C. Technician Level:

A firefighter that has had 2 (two) years or more experience in firefighting and/or rescue, or a fire officer.

- a. Minimum level for assuming team leader on an emergency.
- b. This level is designed for basic strategies and tactics on a typical technical rescue/fire operation.

D. Specialist Level:

A firefighter that has had 4 (four) years or more firefighting and/or rescue experience, or a fire officer.

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

E. Team Leader:

This firefighter/fire officer shall be one of the most trained personnel on the boat.

- a. 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).

2. Fireboat Operator:

A. The Firefighter/officer in Charge of the Fireboat:

- a. This person shall be in charge of operations aboard the fireboat and in the water.
 1. Reminder: Kootenai County Sheriff's Department is in charge of all water emergencies.
 2. If a sheriff's deputy asks you to do something, make sure IC knows you are doing it.
- b. The person in charge of the fireboat is not the person operating the fireboat.
- c. The operator of the fireboat is to operate the fireboat in a safe manner and to assure that he/she gets the crew to the emergency scene as fast as possible.
- d. If the operator of the fireboat feels he/she cannot operate the fireboat proficiently, that person shall tell the officer in charge of the fireboat and pass the operator position off to someone with equal or greater training and/or experience.
- e. It is the responsibility of the operator to insure that the fireboat is full of fuel and is ready for the next run before the fireboat is put back into service.
- f. If there is something broken or not useable, the operator shall inform the officer in charge.

3. Responding to an Emergency:

- A. When paged to any type of emergency on the water, personnel shall make contact with each other on Hauser Lake Fire frequency to insure someone is picking up the fireboat.
- B. It is understood that there may only be one person aboard when taking the fireboat to the south end of the lake, or other locations to pick up personnel.
 - a. Two personnel should be aboard the fireboat as soon as possible.
- C. When responding to an emergency, full code (lights and siren) is required when crossing the lake when boats and PWC (personal water crafts) are present on the lake.
 - a. If no other boats or PWC are on the lake, then red lights only are acceptable.
 - b. If it is foggy or visibility is poor, then full code will be required.
- D. All personal shall have PFD's securely on.

4. Water Rescues (Above the Water):

- A. When approaching a water emergency, slow the fireboat down within a safe distance from the emergency to insure the safety of the victim and to preserve any evidence.
- B. When the fireboat is in a safe position, the boat must be turned off:
 - a. The operator of the fireboat shall remove the key from the ignition. The key shall be placed on the shelf in front of the boat controls.
 - 1. This will help prevent the boat from being started by someone other than the operator.
 - 2. Only the operator is allowed to start the fireboat during and after an emergency.
 - 3. If the fireboat is to be started during a rescue operation, the order shall come from the officer in charge.
- C. When approaching a victim in the water, facilitate the throw, reach and go method.
- D. If a victim is about to go under, the marker is to be thrown to the victim, but not too close to the victim. This will mark were the victim was before they went under so the dive team knows were to start their search.
- E. Any rescuer entering the water shall have successfully completed an approved Hauser Lake Fire Department rescue water training course.
- F. If a victim in the water is not wearing a PFD, then they shall be given some type of flotation.
 - a. The rescuer in the water will not give up his/her PFD to give to a victim if they do not have one. One must come off of the fireboat.
- G. Before removing any victim from the water, insure they do not have any medical problems.
- H. If the emergency involves high speed, all injuries must be treated as if the victim has a spinal injury.
 - a. If possible, and if it is safe for the rescuers and victim, the victim shall be fitted with C-Collar and placed on a backboard.
 - b. Do not strap victim to a back board in the water.
 - 1. Approach a victim from behind, do not approach a victim face on.
 - 2. If a victim is putting you in danger, stay back and talk to them. The rescuer's safety is of first priority.

5. Responding to an EMS emergency:

- A. Position the victim at the bow of the boat.
- B. Personnel on the boat shall move to the bow of the boat to receive the victim. This will lower the bow of the boat in water.
- C. The two rescuers in the water shall bring the victim to the bow of the boat and push the victim up while the crew in the boat pulls the victim up and into the boat.
- D. If the victim is to be placed on a backboard with a C-Collar, do not strap the victim to the board in the water. Handle the victim carefully, and closely monitor C-spine.
- E. If a victim is in critical condition or not breathing, remove them out of the water as soon as possible. Do not start CPR in the water. Get the victim in the boat first and start CPR on your way to shore.

6. Assisting with Dive Operations:

- A. The fireboat will proceed to the public boat launch at the south end of the lake (Sandy Beach). This is the pre-designated meeting place to pick up the dive team, unless told to meet in some other location.
- B. Personnel shall go to the station to retrieve EMS 71 and respond to the public boat launch (Sandy Beach) to assist Kootenai County Sheriff deputies with their dive gear.
 - a. If manpower is available, one person shall stay and provide security for the dive team's vehicles.
 - b. Assist sheriff deputies by carrying their dive gear from their vehicles to the fireboat.
 - c. Other than the fireboat operator and officer in charge, only trained personnel (dive personnel) are allowed on the fireboat during a rescue call.
 - 1. It is O.K. to respond with only two rescue divers on the fireboat,
 - 2. Reminder: Leave room on the boat for your victim(s).
 - 3. A sheriff deputy will be in charge of the dive rescue operations.
- C. Personal at the boat launch shall keep the boat launch cleared so the Sheriff's Department can pull in with their boat without delay.
- D. If the drowning is on the north end of the lake, fireboat 791 will respond to the south end of the lake to pick up personnel unless otherwise specified.
- E. When arriving in the area of the drowning, the fireboat shall be turned off and the key placed on the shelf above the controllers before divers enter the water.
- F. A marker shall be placed in the water where the victim was last seen.
- G. Operator of fireboat 791 shall be responsible for asking dive personnel if they want the fireboat anchored.
- H. If there is a boat or a PWC floating with no one in/on it, tie the boat to the fireboat. Do not turn the boat/PWC over to anyone until the sheriff deputy tells you to do so.
- I. If the fireboat is already out on a run and the sheriff boat arrives, ask them if you can assist them in any way.
 - a. They may need assistance putting their dive gear in the boat.
- J. Dry suits shall be zipped up at all times while the boat is traveling.
- K. While a diver is in the water, one person shall keep track of where that diver is.
- L. One person will need to write down the time the diver goes in the water and how much air the diver has in their bottle.
- M. When the diver comes up, write down how much air is left in the tank and how deep he/she went and the time.
- N. If the sheriff boat is already in the area and you cannot make radio contact with them, call dispatch and ask them to ask the sheriff boat for instruction on what to do.

7. Responding to a Boat Fire:

- A. When paged out to a boat fire, personnel will need to make contact with each other on Hauser Lake Fire frequency to insure someone is picking up the fireboat.
- B. Other fire personnel shall respond to the station and retrieve B –751 with full turn out gear.
 - a. The second truck out of the station shall be E-721 and it shall respond to Sandy Beach.
 - b. If the engine has to respond to a different location on the lake, then it is up to the officer in charge to decide which truck will respond next.
 - c. If personnel are available, one truck shall respond to Sandy Beach to keep B-751 secure.
- C: The fireboat will respond to the south end of the lake to Sandy Beach to pick up fire crew members if necessary.
 - a. If it is decided to meet the fireboat in a different location, the fireboat operator shall be notified of the location.
- D. When meeting with the fireboat, park the fire truck close to the lake, but as far out of the way as possible.
 - a. When meeting the fireboat, take two SCBA'S (self-contained breathing apparatus) and two spare bottles.
 - b. If manpower is available, someone shall stay and provide security for the fire trucks.
- E. When fighting a boat fire, the firefighters shall have PPE (personal protective equipment) on. This includes full turnout gear and SCBA'S.
- F. When approaching a boat fire, insure there is no one in the water.
 - a. Approach the fire from the up wind side if possible.
 - b. Before approaching too close to the fire, start the fire pump before entering the fire area.
 - c. The Pro-Pac with "Class-A" foam at 3% to 4% shall be used on all boat fires.
 - d. If at all possible, keep the fire mess in the boat.
 - e. After the fire has been extinguished, tow the boat to location designated by IC.
 - f. If the boat sinks, put a float marker out.
- G. If there is a lot of oil/gas and debris on the lake, the County Haz-Mat team may need to contain the spill.
 - a. If there is a lot of oil/gas, prevent spreading of debris by not moving the boat and keeping boat traffic down around the area.
- H. If the fire cannot be extinguished all the way, the boat may need to be towed to shore.

8. Responding to a Structure Fire Along the Lake:

- A. When paged out to a structure fire, personnel shall make contact with each other on Hauser Lake Fire frequency to insure someone is retrieving the fireboat if it is needed.
- B. The fireboat can respond directly to the fire scene as long as instructed to do so.
- C. If the fireboat is not instructed to respond directly to the fire scene, it shall respond to the south end of the lake to Sandy Beach to pick up fire crew members.
 - a. If meeting the boat in a different location, personnel must instruct the fireboat operator where to meet.

- D. When meeting the fireboat, park the fire truck close to the lake, and out of the way if possible.
 - a. When meeting the fireboat, personnel shall take two SCBA'S (self contained breathing apparatus) and two spare bottles if appropriate.
 - b. If manpower is available, someone should provide security for the fire trucks.
- E. If pumping/supplying water from the fireboat, the fireboat shall be secured to a dock or other stable structure so it does not move.

9. Responding to a Wildland Fire:

- A. When paged to a boat fire, personnel shall make contact with each other on Hauser Lake Fire frequency to insure someone is retrieving the fireboat.
- B. The fireboat can respond directly to the fire scene as long as instructed do so.
- C. If the fireboat is not instructed to respond directly to the fire scene, it shall respond to the south end of the lake to Sandy Beach to pick up fire crew members.
 - a. If meeting the boat in a different location, personnel must instruct the fireboat operator where to meet.
- D. When meeting the fireboat, park the fire truck close to the lake, and out of the way if possible.
 - a. When meeting the fireboat, retrieve appropriate hand tools and any other equipment needed.
 - b. If manpower is available, someone should provide security for the fire trucks.
- E. If pumping/supplying water from the fireboat, the fireboat shall be secured to a dock or other stable structure so it does not move.

10. Pump Operations:

- A. The fire pump can be setup on the deck of the fireboat.
 - a. When setting up the pump, be aware that the exhaust becomes hot. The pump must be positioned accordingly.
- B. Tie a rope to the fireboat and then tie the rope on the hose going ashore to help stabilize it.
- C. Insure that the end of the drafting hose stays well below the water line
- D. If personnel have to get off the fireboat, pull the boat all the way up to the dock/shore. Personal will step off the boat in a safe manner. Jumping is not allowed.
- E. Insure the pump is cooled off before putting it back in its proper location.
- F. Check the fuel and make sure the tank is full of mixed gas before putting the fuel tank away.
- G. When not pumping and rolling, or using the pump in any other way, the pump shall be placed back in the cabinet and kept secured.
- H. When fire hose is on the boat, it shall be placed to avoid a tripping hazard.

11. Responding on a Mutual Aid Call:

- A. In the event that the fireboat is called out to assist another department or law enforcement agency, the fireboat and trailer shall be towed in a safe manner.
- B. A senior officer on the lake shall approve any request for the fireboat by other then an emergency agency.
- C. If the fireboat is left over night, then it must be is a secure location.
- D. The fireboat shall have a minimum of one operator responding with it.

E. All personal on the fireboat shall wear a properly fitted and fastened PVD at all times when working on or around the water.

12. Training With the Fireboat:

A: All personal who will be operating the fireboat during training or on an emergency call will train every year on operating the fireboat.

a. This training will consist of:

1. Entering the fireboat (lock combination).
2. Setting up the batteries.
3. Setting up the Fuel.
4. Starting the boat.
5. Knowing how to operate the spot light motor up and down.
6. Pulling away from the dock smoothly safely.
7. Entering the dock safely.
8. Docking procedures.
9. Pulling up to a victim in the water safely.
10. Pulling up to a boat out on the lake, if available.
11. Helping a diver on and off the fireboat.