
	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE				
	RESPONSE				
	DIVE / RESCUE RESPONSE				
	Effective: 01/May/96	Revised: 01/Nov/2020	S.O.G. #: R-406	Page: 1 of 2	

1.0 Objective

- 1.1 The purpose of this guideline is to establish procedures for the initial evaluation of, and response by the Highland Park Fire Department Underwater Rescue and Recovery Team (hereinafter called the Team) to alarms involving a possible drowning in water or victim(s) through the ice.

2.0 Responsibility

- 2.1 It is the responsibility of all Battalion Chiefs, Lieutenants, and Firefighters to follow the guidelines documented in this Standard Operating Guideline.

3.0 Implementation



- 3.1 This special ice/water rescue procedure will be implemented when an alarm involves ice, open water, or a possible drowning in any of the following manners:
- 3.1.1 A vehicle through the ice or in water where there is a possibility of a person being trapped.
 - 3.1.2 A person in a river, stream, pond, lake, water retention area, whether open water or ice covered, unless the safety of the victim is positively known by the caller.
 - 3.1.3 A person in a water storage facility, above or below ground level, with the exclusion of pools, tubs, and tanks.
 - 3.1.4 Any other condition which the on-duty Battalion Chief deems necessary.

4.0 Receipt of Alarm by Dispatch

- 4.1 The Highland Park Dispatcher should obtain the usual incident information, and additionally should obtain the following information:
- 4.1.1 How many victims are there and is/are the victim(s) in the ice or water?
 - 4.1.2 How long ago did the incident occur?
 - 4.1.3 What is the closest access point to the victim?

5.0 Initial Fire Department Response

- 5.1 The initial Fire Department response to an incident involving *open water* (other than pools, tanks, and tubs) is:
- 5.1.1 Dispatched as a Code 1: Water Rescue
 - 5.1.1.1 1 Engine, 1 Ambulance, Squad 33, Battalion 33, Dive Rescue 33, Police Shift Commander and Boat 33 to Lake Michigan.
 - 5.1.1.2 All *on-duty* Highland Park Fire Department divers.
 - 5.1.1.3 *On-duty* divers from Deerfield, Glencoe, Lake Forest, and Northbrook Fire Departments.
- 5.2 The initial Fire Department response to an incident involving an *ice rescue* is:
- 5.2.1 Dispatched as a Code 1: Ice Rescue
 - 5.2.1.1 1 Engine, 1 Ambulance, Squad 33, Battalion 33, Dive Rescue 33, Police Shift Commander.
 - 5.2.1.2 All *on-duty* Highland Park Fire Department divers.
 - 5.2.1.3 *On-duty* divers from Deerfield, Glencoe, Lake Forest, and Northbrook Fire Departments.
- 5.3 When divers are sent into the water, a second ambulance must be on the scene. If the on-scene ambulance receives a patient, then another ambulance will be requested to the scene.
- 5.4 Whenever a Dive Team operation is instituted and off-duty divers are not utilized, the Dive Team Supervisor will be advised of the call. If the off-duty divers are notified, this page will also notify the Team Supervisor.

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6.0 Additional Resources

- 6.1 When the Incident Commander has been apprised of a need for additional divers, off-duty divers shall be paged. A MABAS Dive Box Alarm may be requested as needed. MABAS Dive Box #33W1 may be requested by the Incident Commander after consultation with the Divemaster or senior diver.
- 6.2 All divers that respond on the initial alarm and/or MABAS alarm must present their MABAS I.D. card to the Divemaster or Shoremaster at the scene. Divers can only be released to quarters by the Divemaster after apprising the Incident Commander.

7.0 Alarms Involving Pools, Tanks, or Tubs

- 7.1 Alarms involving pools, tanks, or tubs and non-human life generally will not require immediate Team involvement unless so determined by the Incident Commander.
- 7.2 If the Battalion Chief determines that Squad 33, Dive-Rescue 33, and/or the on-duty divers might be needed for an unusual incident, then they may be sent on the initial alarm.
 - 7.2.1 Example: A report of a person falling into a water storage tank 20 feet deep may require a diver to get to the victim.
- 7.3 Non-emergency incidents such as a recovery of a vehicle or evidence should *not* include activation of the Dive Team until the Battalion Chief and the Dive Team Supervisor or his designee have jointly determined the need for the Team after discussing the situation.
- 7.4 On-duty divers may be sent immediately when a search for a victim is being performed in the vicinity of a body of water and information suggests possible water involvement.

8.0 Calls for Mutual Aid for MABAS Alarms

- 8.1 When the MABAS Dispatcher activates a Divers Box Alarm for a *rescue dive* or a *recovery dive* to which Highland Park is due, Highland Park will send all on-duty divers immediately. These on-duty divers will respond with Dive Rescue 33 and Boat 33 if appropriate. There will also be an immediate recall of all off-duty divers.
- 8.2 Off-duty divers shall contact dispatch prior to responding and they shall advise Dispatch if they are responding to Station 33 or to the scene. Dispatch will relay this information to the Battalion Chief, who is responsible for getting a vehicle to Station #33 for off-duty diver use.
- 8.3 For additional Team information, refer to the MABAS Division III Underwater Rescue/Recovery Team Operational Guidelines.

9.0 Reference

- 9.1 Highland Park Fire Department

Approved:  Fire Chief