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| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** |
| **SOG Number:** |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** |

**Technical Rescue Incidents - General Operational Guidelines**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this procedure is to establish basic operational guidelines for use at any and all Technical rescue incidents.

**Procedure:**

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ incident command system is to be utilized during all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ operations:

* The fire chief or highest-ranking officer or his/her designee shall be the incident commander (IC) of fire company operations.
* The rescue chief/lieutenant or other person designated by the IC shall be charged with rescue operations. In the event of multiple operations, each operation shall have an operations/section chief, with the rescue group supervisor or designee taking operational command of overall rescue operations.
* Communications with the EMS command officer, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ police, state police, and or any other authority having jurisdiction (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ manager, emergency management coordinator, public works, property owner/manager etc.) shall be established and maintained by the IC.

Technical Rescue incidents are not fire company incidents. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is operating in a support mode, and shall be under the ultimate authority of the ranking EMS officer or his/her designee.

No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ member shall operate beyond his/her scope of training, unless they are in the training environment learning a new task.

Evaluate the effects of extreme weather and other difficult conditions to determine whether the rescue can be accomplished in a safe and efficient manner with the personnel and equipment responding. If additional and or specialized equipment or personnel are needed, the IC shall contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dispatch center and/or the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ police communications center for the additional resources.

The first officer or senior firefighter on scene shall perform a size-up of the situation, to include, but not be limited to:

* Scope, magnitude, and nature of the incident
* Location and number of victims
* Risk versus benefit analysis (body recovery vs. rescue)
* Access to the scene
* Environmental factors
* Available/necessary resources
* Patient contact when it can be performed without endangering either responder or victim(s)
* Make contact with EMS command or person in charge of patient care

The IC shall have the police and or fire police secure the area around the incident and deny access to anyone who is not directly involved with the incident. Any persons or agencies entering the incident shall be directed and or escorted to command immediately. No one entering the scene shall go directly to the "warm" or "hot" zone without the approval of the IC.

A safety officer shall be in place at all rescue operations. Some operations may require the use of two or more.

Prior to the start of any rescue operation, any equipment, vehicles, and utilities that are involved in or could become involved in the rescue shall be secured, isolated, de-energize, or guarded. To ensure control of the scene, these concerns may be addressed by posting a firefighter at the controls, using a lock out/ tag out, or permanently disabling the equipment, through the removal of key components.

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**