


Title:	Water/ Ice Rescue			
Section:	600 Special Operations			
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Effective Date:	January 1, 2024	Reviewed Date:		
Authorized By:	Fox River Fire District Chiefs			

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to establish a standard method of safe and efficient surface rescue, emergency medical, and fire suppression operations involving water, cold water, and ice emergencies.

B. SCOPE

This guideline applies to all emergency incidents, non-emergency events, and training operations that occur on or near the water.

C. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Personal Flotation Device (PFD): A garment that provides floatation in the event that a rescuer or victim enters or falls in the water. PFDs may take the form of a jacket (type III), vest (type II), cold water rescue suit, or rescue tube.

D. GUIDELINE

1) Response

- a) All personnel will respond as directed by the Incident Commander or other member on scene
 - i) Units may be directed to a shoreline area to affect shore based rescue
 - ii) The boat and tow vehicle may be directed to the nearest boat launch for a water based rescue.

- b) Assure that all additional equipment is brought either in the boat or in the ambulance (equipment is weather dependent)

- c) The rescue concept of “Reach, Throw, Row, and Go” shall be used.
 - i) The rescuer reaches for the victim using any long-handled tools available while remaining on the shore or secure structure.
 - ii) The rescuer throws an aid to the victim, preferably a buoyant device with a rope attached.
 - iii) The rescuer uses a boat or other water vessel to row to the victim.

iv) The rescuer dons appropriate protective clothing (wetsuit, cold water suit, PFD) and goes to the victim.

2) Command.

a) The first-arriving officer shall establish a command post on the shoreline as near to the site of the rescue attempt as practical.

b) The Incident Commander shall establish a staging area for responding companies.

c) The ambulance will stage as near as possible, notify the hospital of the situation, and prepare any needed medical equipment.

3) Safety Considerations. As in all fire department operations, safety is a priority.

a) During an ice rescue, only suited rescuers are allowed on the ice; all others shall remain on the shore.

b) During an ice rescue, suited rescuers shall always remain tethered to shore with safety lines.

c) Shore-based rescuers, including those handling ropes, shall wear PFDs appropriate to the situation.

d) Members in boats shall don PFDs

4) Fox River Boat Launch Sites.

a) Jerry Perkofski Boat Ramp at the Brown County Fairgrounds.

b) Bomier Boat Ramp, south of the Claude Allouez Bridge.

c) Fox Point Boat Landing, north of the Claude Allouez Bridge.

d) Wrightstown Boat Landing

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