

### 3.5.2.4 Rescue Team



YOUR ORGANIZATION  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

**TITLE:** Rescue Team

**SECTION/TOPIC:** Technical Rescue Operations

**NUMBER:** 3.5.2.4

**ISSUE DATE:**

**REVISED DATE:**

**PREPARED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**

X

Preparer

X

Approver

These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

#### 1.0 POLICY REFERENCE

CFR

NFPA

NIMS

#### 2.0 PURPOSE

This standard operating procedure/guideline addresses procedures describing the use, structure, equipment, and operations of special rescue teams (may be a separate document/section from the general standard operating procedures).

#### 3.0 SCOPE

This SOP/SOG pertains to all personnel in this organization.

#### 4.0 DEFINITIONS

These definitions are pertinent to this SOP/SOG.

#### 5.0 PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

##### 5.1 Procedures describing the Use, Structure, Equipment, and Operations of Special Rescue Teams:

## **Technical Rescue**

The following tasks should be performed at the scene of all Technical Rescue Incidents:

- Establish command
- Secure and isolate the area
- Identify and secure utilities (if possible)
- Evaluate the need for additional resources
- Determine rescue vs. recovery
- Secure Responsible Party (if possible)
- Don appropriate PPE for the situation

In addition to the above items the following tasks should be performed:

### **STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE**

- While operating at a structural collapse take care to ensure that no personnel are committed to an unsafe structure
- Be alert for the potential for secondary collapse
- Control and extinguish fires
- Establish an observation platform by positioning an aerial platform at the front of the building
- Assign police to perimeter control and assist with victim accountability
- Assess structural stability of adjoining structures
- Perform initial recon (identify type of structure, use, and possible victims)
- Remove surface victims first

### **CONFINED SPACE**

- Attempt an initial contact with victim(s)
- Deploy a reconnaissance team to evaluate opening, number of victims, and entrapment – non-entry
- If possible, undertake a non-entry rescue
- Entry with standard SCBA may be made if NFPA 1670 operations level requirements are met
- Gather information on the location, number, and position of victims
- Obtain blueprints, maps, or sketches of the space if possible

### **ROPE RESCUE**

- Use only as a last resort – consider all other means of access and egress first
- Gain access to a location above the patient

- If possible, place an aerial ladder in a location where victims can be accessed
- Contact victims with intercom or megaphone to advise help is imminent
- At the Incident Commander's discretion either prepare to access the victim and stabilize prior to removal or await arrival of Technical Rescue Team and support as needed

## **TRENCH RESCUE**

For detailed information on trench see trench and excavation collapse in section 2000

- Approach trench from ends
- Consider the effects of vehicles/heavy equipment on the stability of the trench and spoil pile
- Under no circumstances should anyone enter an unprotected trench
- Assess the number of victims and their location
- Place at least one ladder into the trench for emergency egress
- Place ground pads around the perimeter of the trench
- Assist victims in self-rescue if possible
- Ventilate trench