

Recommendations Adopted by the Fire and Rescue Commission
Rescue Squad Report
January 2004

Recommendation 1: Actions concerning rescue squad deployment and dispatch are described in Recommendations 1A through 1E below:

Recommendation 1A:

The MCFRS have 14 units that are extrication equipped, with six of these units being heavy rescue squads. The six heavy rescue squads are to be staffed 24/7 with a minimum qualified crew of three personnel, with the goal to have a minimum of 4 qualified personnel. The heavy rescue squads are to be located at Stations 3, 15, 29, 40, R1 and R2. If the Sandy Spring VFD does not agree to move the rescue squad from Station 4 to Station 40, then Station 17 will house one of the six heavy rescue squads instead of Station 40.

Recommendation 1B:

Extrication equipped units are to be located at the following Stations: 2, 9, 12, 13, 14, 17, 30 and 31. Station 4, instead of Station 17, will house an extrication equipped unit if Station 17 houses a heavy rescue squad. The extrication equipped unit at Station 12 will continue to be Truck 12 as previously approved by the FRC. Notwithstanding prior actions taken by the FRC, the extrication equipped units at Station 2 and Station 31 will be Truck 2 and Truck 31 respectively.

Recommendation 1C:

The actions listed below pertain to supplemental rescue squads:

- Rescue Squads 9, 17 and 30: RS9, RS17 and RS30 should be considered as "supplemental" units to the six rescue squads specified in recommendation 1A, and staffed only when qualified personnel are available to staff primary station services (i.e., EMS unit, engine) first, subject to the provisions of Recommendation 1E .
- Rescue Squad 4: Relocate RS4 to Station 40 subject to the provisions of Recommendations 1A, 1B, and 1E.
- Rescue Squad 21: RS21 should be staffed and dispatched as the other supplemental rescue squads.
- Rescue Squad 30: The relocation of the CJPVFD rescue squad from Station 30 to Station 10 is not recommended.

Recommendation 1D:

Extrication service from Station 16 on a pick-up chassis-type unit should not be implemented.

Recommendation 1E:

Cross staffing at Station 30 will continue until a rescue engine can be purchased and placed in service. When a rescue engine is acquired, the cross staffing of the rescue squad will be discontinued, and the rescue squad will be placed into controlled status only when there are sufficient personnel at Station 30 to staff the other primary units and the rescue squad. The provisions of this recommendation apply to Station 4 if the rescue squad at that station is not relocated to Station 40. If the rescue squad at Station 4 is relocated to Station 40, a rescue engine will be purchased and placed in service at Station 17. When this rescue engine is acquired, Rescue Squad 17 will be placed into controlled status only when there are sufficient personnel at Station 17 to staff the other primary units and the rescue squad.

Recommendation 2:

The base response for all PICs will be the closest EMS unit and the closest engine. If a rescue squad is closer than the closest engine, then it will be dispatched in lieu of the engine. When a PIC occurs on a road with a speed limit of 40 mph or greater, or PSCC determines that the response of a rescue squad is appropriate, a rescue squad will be dispatched as well as an extrication equipped unit, if it is closer than the rescue squad. The criteria used by PSCC to determine the response of a rescue squad if the speed limit is below 40 mph are: 1) severe vehicle deformity, 2) vehicle roll over, 3) person ejected from a vehicle, 4) traumatic injuries, 5) one pinned or trapped, 6) multiple vehicles involved (more than two cars, busses), and/or 7) whenever PSCC determines the dispatch of a rescue squad is warranted. The dispatch criteria for PICs will be reviewed by the FRC Operations Committee six months after implementation.

Recommendation 3: Amend the response time goal for special services established in the 1994 “FRC Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan,” as amended February 29, 2000, to create a separate response time goal for extrication and heavy rescue service as indicated below:

RESPONSE TIME GOALS FOR
RESCUE SQUADS AND EXTRICATION-CAPABLE UNITS

Service	Response Time Goal	Travel Time	Urban Area Goal	Suburban Area Goal	Rural Area Goal
Extrication ¹	9 min	7 min	90%	75%	50%
Heavy Rescue ²	12 min	10 min	95%	80%	25%

Note A: The 9-minute and 12-minute time frames are the same as those proposed in the “Report of the Rescue Squad Work Group.” While the Report proposes achieving these 9- and 12-minute goals on a county-wide basis for a certain percentage of the incidents, this chart proposes achievement of these goals

¹ Extrication capable unit is an extrication-equipped engine or aerial unit, or heavy rescue squad

² Rescue Squad response is required, not an extrication-equipped engine or aerial unit

on the basis of urban, suburban and rural population density as is the case for FRC-adopted response time goals for first-due ambulance and medic unit to EMS incidents and first-due engine to fire incidents.

Note B: The urban, suburban and rural areas referenced in this chart coincide with revised density zones that will be proposed in the new “Fire, Rescue and EMS Master Plan.”

Note C: Percentages represent population covered within specified time frame

Recommendation 4:

The FRC Operations Committee will continue to monitor and make recommendations with respect to the MCFRS capability to respond to all rescue incidents, including appropriate training for MCFRS personnel as well as the seamless integration with the MCFRS specialty teams.

Recommendation 5: The Practical Rescue class is established as required training for minimum staffing on rescue squads effective July 1, 2005. NFPA 1006 and NFPA 1670 standards are to be evaluated to determine future training requirements for staffing of rescue squads. A provision is given to the two LFRD rescue companies (Wheaton VRS and Bethesda-Chevy Chase RS) that an 18-month transitional training period is provided for personnel who provide minimum staffing on these rescue squads to obtain the Practical Rescue class.

Recommendation 6: There should be two reserve rescue squads in the county to maintain the availability of the heavy rescue squad fleet on a 24-hour, 7 day per week (24/7) basis.

Recommendation 7: Rescue squads should be equipped with thermal imaging capability.

Recommendation 8: If a rescue squad carries a cascade system to fill SCBA cylinders, then it must be equipped with an approved blast shield containment system.

Recommendation 9: The FRC “*Vehicle Accident Response Policy*” should be updated to reflect current administrative, organizational and operational strategy with respect to rescue squads and extrication-equipped units.

Additional item:

The existing “Minimum Equipment Inventory for Rescue Engines” is renamed “Minimum Equipment Inventory for Extrication-Equipped Units”.