



Special Ops Thursday, April 21, 2011

Water Safety & Rescue Sequence

Waters Power

- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups

Protective Equipment

- All Fire Rescue personnel operating within **10'** of the waters edge **MUST** wear a PDF.
- Personnel entering the water **MUST** wear appropriate thermal and contamination protection, Dry Suit or Exposure Suit, knife, and water helmet.
- **DO NOT** enter the water or come within 10' of the waters edge wearing structural turn out PPE!
- Never hard-tie yourself to a line. Never loop rope around shoulders, waist, legs, wrist – any body part

Safety

- Mark Water Line- Utilized paint, flare, stake driven in ground; monitor level of water to determine if conditions will change.
- Always employ upstream spotters. They should have radios and be able to notify command if a surge or large debris is inbound.
- Always employ multiple downstream recovery points. Ensure spotters have throw bags, PFD, and portable radios
- Have a **PLAN** and a **BACKUP PLAN**. Keep the plans **SIMLPE**
- Do not attempt to stand up in moving water that is over knee deep



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The low to high risk sequence of progressive rescue actions used to remove victims from the water-based hazard. In this progressive sequence described below, the rescuer will:

1. **Talk:** Verbally instruct the victim(s) on how to remove themselves from danger.
2. **Reach:** Use an object, e.g., a pike pole, ladder, an inflated fire hose, etc., to extend the shore-based rescuer's reach to the victim(s).
3. **Throw:** Propel an object, manually or mechanically, to the victim(s) to facilitate rescue efforts.
4. **Wade:** Walk through still or moving water- never through swift water- if it is no deeper than waist-high. Rescuers must use an approved tether procedure and a crossing pole or similar device to ensure a firm waterway bed to reach the victim(s).
5. **Row:** Use a rescue craft to access the victim(s).
6. **Go:** Enter the water and swim to reach the victim(s); consider carrying a PFD (personal flotation device) for the victim's use.

Water Rescue Sequence

After completing a risk benefit analysis, unit officers may choose to rescue trapped motorists via traveling through the water in large fire apparatus. Extreme caution should be taken during these operations

Water/River Orientation

