

Hurricane Fire & Rescue

Hurricane, WV

Operation Guidelines

Subject	Water Rescue (not swift water)
Guideline Number	800.419
Adopted	March 1, 2007
Effective Date	April 7, 2007
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Purpose: To guide personnel in managing water rescue incidents.

Scope: All Personnel

Responsibility: It is the responsibility of all personnel to adhere to this guideline.

Responding to Scene

- A. Request additional units as necessary.

Arrival at Scene

- A. Follow SOG's for size-up and Command practices.
- B. First arriving unit will proceed to the incident location.
- C. Determine if EMS and qualified water rescue technicians is required and if the incident is a rescue or recovery prior to calling for additional units.
- D. Initial rescue attempt personnel should attempt the following practices:
 - 1. Reach for the victim
 - 2. Throw a water rescue bag or floatable item to the victim.
 - 3. Row a boat to the victim, if available.
 - 4. Go to the victim, as a last resort
 - 5. If rescue is immediate, persons entering the water will wear personal flotation devices (PFDs) and have a tether line attached.
 - 6. For every rescuer entering the water, one back-up safety rescuer will be available.
- E. Determine best launch site if a boat is necessary.
- F. Establish rescue sectors as needed; work water rescue on TAC 8.

General Operations

- A. No personnel will enter the water or a marine unit without a PFD.
- B. All personnel within ten (10) feet of water's edge should don a PFD. Those working along the waters edge will don a PFD.
- C. Communications between Command and the Water Rescue sector should take priority over other communications.
- D. The lead rescue swimmer will make the determination to swim/dive or not.