

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

Standard Operating Procedures

130.03.05
SURFACE RESCUE



Adopted: 12/20/16
Reviewed: 11/09/22
Revised: 11/09/22

Approved:

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Purpose: Fire District 8 operates on Surface Rescue Operations Level.

References: WAC296-305-05009
NFPA 2500

Procedure:

1. Surface Rescue Operations Level should consider the District's risk management principles in addition to the following:
 - a) Recognition of the need for water search & rescue and personal floatation devices.
 - b) Implementation of the assessment phase.
 - c) Identification of the resources necessary to conduct safe and effective water operations.
 - d) Implementation of the emergency response system for water incidents.
 - e) Implementation of site control and scene management.
 - f) Recognition of general hazards associated with water incidents and the procedures necessary to mitigate hazards within the general search and rescue area.
 - g) Determination of rescue versus body recovery.
2. When responding to a report of a potential water rescue, immediately initiating a Water Rescue Team response via Dispatch.
3. Surface Water Rescue Operations
 - a) Address all portions of the awareness level
 - b) Understand the hydrology of the area
 - c) Don Surface Rescue PPE to include:
 - i. Personal Floatation Device.
 - ii. Helmet.
 - iii. Gloves.
 - iv. Class C uniform or wildland ensemble.
4. Bunker gear shall not be worn during these incidents.
5. Develop an action plan for shore based rescue of a single or multiple water bound victims based on risk/benefit, hydrology, identified hazards, personnel and equipment.
 - a) Deploy a reach device to a water bound victim(s) so that the device can reach the victim(s), does not slip through the rescuer's hands, pulls the

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victim to shore, neither the victim nor rescuer are pulled beneath or into the water.

- b) Deploy a water rescue rope to a water bound victim given a water rescue rope in a throw bag, a coiled water rescue rope 50-75 ft. in length so that it is deployed within reach of the victim so that the rope does not slip through the rescuer's hands, the victim is moved to shore, the victim is not pulled beneath the surface, the rescuer is not pulled into the water and neither become entangled in the throw line.
6. Understand how to and are able to communicate with adjoining teams, water craft or air resources deployed to the aid of the victim(s) as part of the Incident Action Plan.
7. Understand and be able to assist in watercraft deployment.
8. Understand and be able to assist in the operations of rope systems.
9. Training to meet the NFPA 2500 Surface Rescue shall occur at least annually.