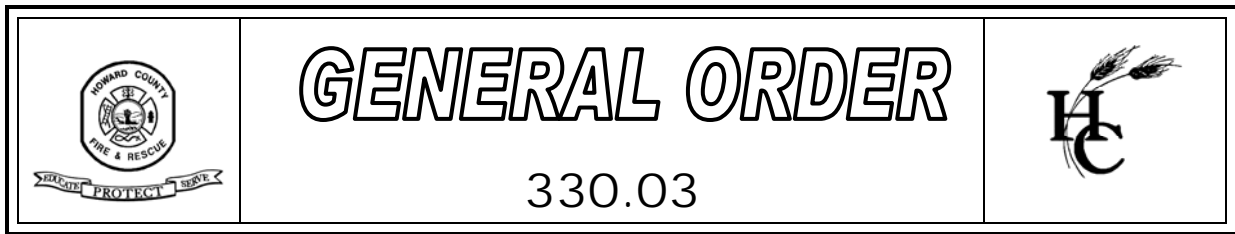


# DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



Originating From	Issue Date	Revision Date	Attachments
<b>Operations</b>	<b>7/9/1996</b>	<b>1/5/2009</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**SUBJECT: Special Operations Team**

**APPLICABILITY: All personnel**

**POLICY:**

The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) have a Special Operations Team. The personnel and units assigned to the Rivers Park Fire Station comprise the core of the Special Operations team, supplemented by the personnel and units at the Scaggsville Fire Station and Tower Company Two located at the Ellicott City Station. Scaggsville Fire Station and Tower Company Two are Satellite Companies. This team will provide service to the community and respond to a variety of emergencies outside the realm of normal fire and rescue operations.

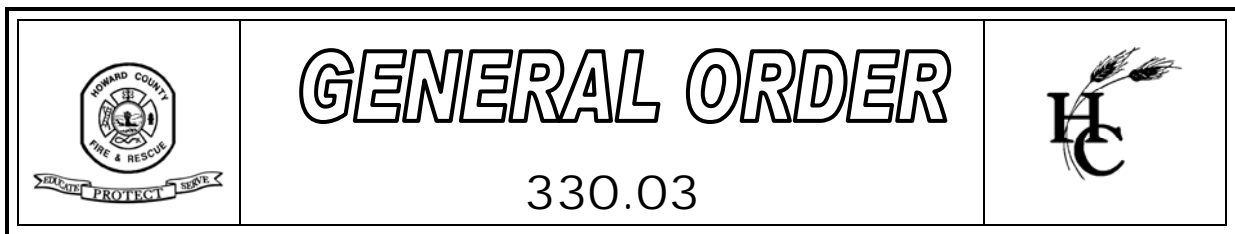
1 ABBREVIATIONS

- 1.1 FUNSAR – Fundamentals of Search and Rescue
- 1.2 MFRI – Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute
- 1.3 NASAR – National Association of Search and Rescue
- 1.4 RSQ-3 – Rescue 3 International
- 1.5 TEEX ASC – Texas Engineering Extension System Advanced Structural Collapse
- 1.6 UMBC EHS – University of Maryland Baltimore County Emergency Health Service
- 1.7 USAR SCT – Urban Search and Rescue Structural Collapse Technician

2 TEAM MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 The “Team Leader” (DFRS Unit 301) will be designated by the Fire Chief and will be responsible for team operations.
- 2.2 The “Assistant Team Leader” (DFRS Unit 330) will also be designated by the Fire Chief and will be responsible for team training and certification.
- 2.3 When Units 301 and 330 respond to Special Operations incidents, they shall fill the role of technical (*Hazmat Branch, Technical Rescue Branch*) branch supervisor,

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technical safety officer or team liaison to the incident commander.

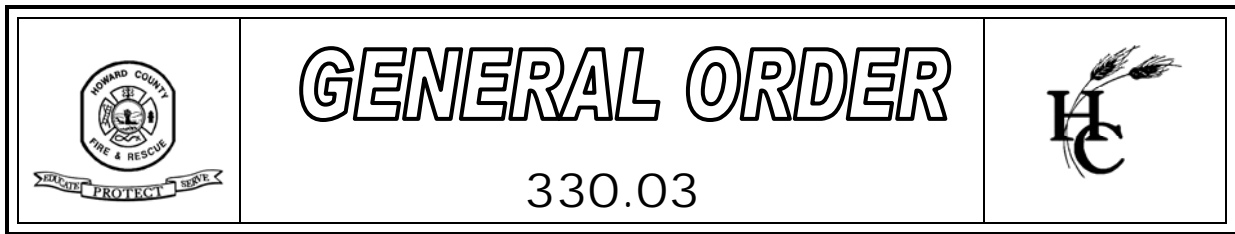
## 2.4 Team Members

- 2.4.1 All personnel assigned to the Rivers Park Fire Station (10) will be encouraged to attain at least five (5) technician training certifications among the following disciplines: Hazmat, Swift Water, Confined Space, Rope, Trench Collapse, and Structural Collapse.
- 2.4.2 All personnel assigned to the Scaggsville Station (11) will be encouraged to attain at least three (3) technician training certifications among the following disciplines: Hazmat, Swift Water, Swift Water Flood / Boat Operator
- 2.4.3 All personnel assigned to Tower 2 will be encouraged to attain at least three technician training certifications among the following disciplines: Hazmat, Swift Water, and Technical Rescue.
- 2.4.4 Up to eight additional shift members, approved by the team leader, will be identified as satellite members.
- 2.4.5 A maximum of six individuals assigned to the staff, approved by the team leader will be identified as satellite members
- 2.4.6 All team members are encouraged to also attain certification in Overland Search and Rescue, Search Management and Mass Casualty Incident Management.
- 2.4.7 A maximum of fifteen members from the Volunteer Corporations and/ or County Volunteer Program may participate as team members.
- 2.4.8 Selection of members
  - 2.4.8.1 Selection of each member will be made by the Team Leader and Deputy Chief of Field Operations and in concert with the Volunteer Corporation Chief.

## 3 THE TEAM SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE IN ASSISTING IN THE MITIGATION AND SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINES:

- 3.1 Emergency medical and mass casualty:
  - 3.1.1 Incident requiring a long term medical presence
  - 3.1.2 Incidents involving greater than eight patients
- 3.2 Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction:
  - 3.2.1 Incidents involving identified materials
  - 3.2.2 Incidents involving unidentified materials
  - 3.2.3 Incidents involving known or suspected weapons of mass destruction
  - 3.2.4 Investigation of suspicious packages

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- 3.2.5 Transportation incidents
- 3.2.6 Fixed facility incidents
- 3.2.7 Decontamination of firefighters and civilians

### 3.3 Technical rescue:

- 3.3.1 Above grade
- 3.3.2 Below grade
- 3.3.3 Confined space
- 3.3.4 Ice
- 3.3.5 Cold water
- 3.3.6 Static water
- 3.3.7 Swift water
- 3.3.8 Trench collapse
- 3.3.9 Structural collapse

### 3.4 Overland search and rescue

- 3.4.1 Function under the direction of police agency
  - 3.4.1.1 Lost person(s)
  - 3.4.1.2 Extrication of victim from remote location

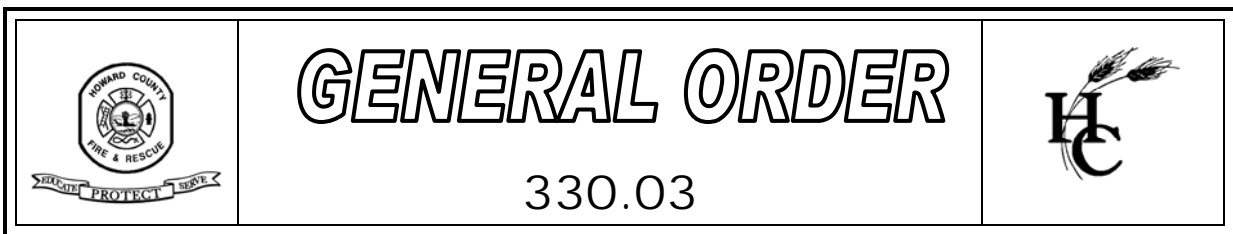
## 4 RESPONSE

### 4.1 The team shall be initially dispatched for the following:

- 4.1.1 Airplane crash
- 4.1.2 Passenger or freight train accident or derailment with or without fire
- 4.1.3 Report of confined space incident or cave-in
- 4.1.4 Water rescue (static or moving, any depth)
- 4.1.5 Bus accident with known injuries
- 4.1.6 Confirmed hazardous materials incident (with or without fire), any quantity
- 4.1.7 Railroad tank car leaking
- 4.1.8 Railroad tank car on fire
- 4.1.9 Hydrocarbon (motor fuel) spill greater than 50 gallons
- 4.1.10 Suspicious or unidentified packages
- 4.1.11 Motor vehicle accident where vehicle has landed in a water way

### 4.2 The team may be dispatched at the request of the on-duty battalion chief or an incident commander

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#### 4.3 Level of response

- 4.3.1 Level I – On-duty personnel from Station 10 will respond with all necessary available equipment. This is the basic level of team response
- 4.3.2 Level II – Level I response, plus on-duty personnel from one satellite company
- 4.3.3 Level III – Level I response with on-duty personnel from both satellite companies
- 4.3.4 Level IV – Level III response, plus on-duty Satellite personnel from their respective stations.
- 4.3.5 Level V- A Level IV response, plus any off-duty personnel.
  - 4.3.5.1 Off-duty members will report to their assigned station for response in a DFRS vehicle. Response should be non-emergency, unless authorized by the Incident Commander.
- 4.3.6 Additional team members arriving at an incident scene will report to the Command Post. The Command Post will advise the team leader or appropriate branch director/group supervisor of their arrival.

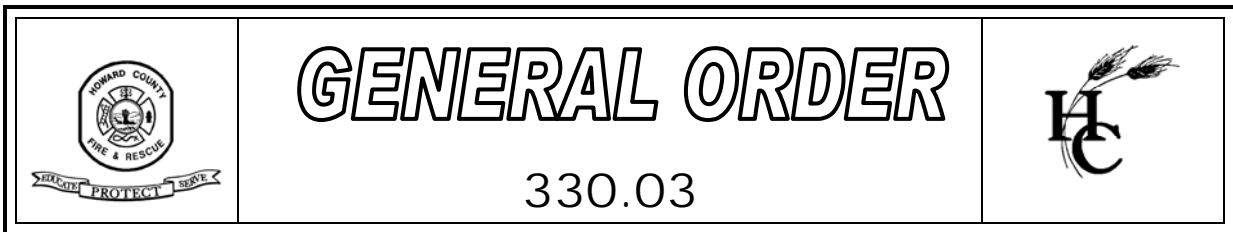
#### 5 APPARATUS

- 5.1 Apparatus assigned to Station 10, Station 11 and Tower 2 shall be designated as Team Apparatus.
- 5.2 In the event any apparatus is out of service, it will be replaced with a similar piece of equipment, with the ability to transport the necessary equipment to the incident site.

#### 6 TRAINING

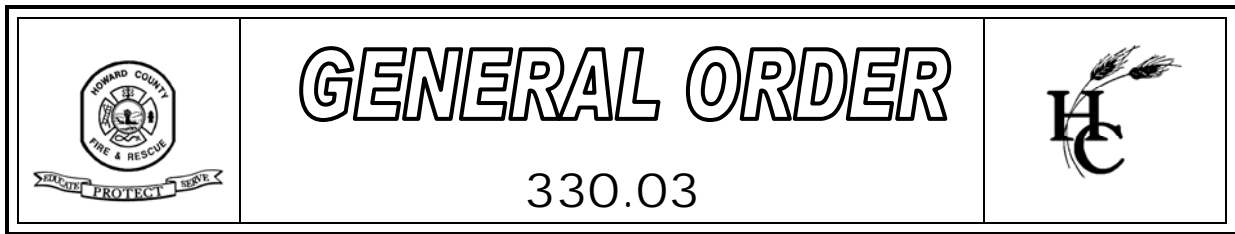
- 6.1 Initial training
  - 6.1.1 Emergency medical and mass casualty
    - 6.1.1.1 Training to consist of review of the DFRS triage and mass casualty plan  
NFA Independent Study Programs: Q157 and F163
    - 6.1.1.2 Shift drills to simulate multiple patient management and movement
    - 6.1.1.3 Regional Mass Casualty drills
  - 6.1.2 Hazardous Materials Technician
    - 6.1.2.1 DFRS Hazardous Materials awareness, decon, and operations
    - 6.1.2.2 39 Hour MFRI Hazmat Technician
    - 6.1.2.3 16 Hour MFRI Protective Envelope & Foam
    - 6.1.2.4 3-4 Hour NFA AWR 110 and 111
    - 6.1.2.5 32 Hour ODP Awareness 140 Rad-Nuc Awareness

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- 6.1.2.6 9 Hour ODP Awareness 160
- 6.1.3 Hazardous Materials Specialist , six courses selected from the following programs:
  - 6.1.3.1 NFA Training R233 Chemistry for H/M R229 H/M Operating Site Practices
  - 6.1.3.2 ODP Training-
    - PER 201- WMD Evidence Collection
    - PER 201- WMD Sampling Techniques
    - PER 222- Public Safety Sampling
    - PER-226 Advanced (Live Agent) Dugway
    - PER-230 IRTB- New Mexico
    - PER-240 Rad Nuc Ops (in state)
    - PER-241 Rad Nuc HMT CTOS- Los Vegas
    - PER-261 COBRA (Live Agent) Anniston
  - 5.1.3.3 Toxic Industrial Chemical Specialist or Subject Mater Expert Training
- 5.1.4 Swift Water/ Flood Rescue
  - Technician - RSQ-3 Unit 1-(30 hrs)
  - Specialist - RSQ-3 Advanced (33 hrs)
  - Swift Water Flood Boat Operator training (24 hrs)
- 5.1.5 Technical Rope Rescue
  - Technician - MFRI Tech Rope (54 Hrs)
  - Specialist - one of the following:
    - Ropes That Rescue
    - Personal Skills
    - Team Skills
    - Advanced Skills
    - Structural/Tower Rescue
- 5.1.6 Structural Collapse
  - Technician - MFRI Structural Collapse for the fire service (44 hrs)
  - Specialist - One of the following:
    - USAR SCT (80 hrs)
    - TEEX ASC (50hrs)
    - Urban HART Build Coll. I-II
- 5.1.7 Trench Collapse
  - Technician - MFRI (30 hrs)
  - Specialist - Urban HART Trench I-II
- 5.1.8 Confined Space
  - Technician - MFRI (30 hrs)
  - Specialist - Urban HART confined space I-II or Spec Rescue C-Space 1
- 5.1.9 Overland Search and Rescue
  - Technician - UMBC EHS 330 Management of Search Ops
  - Specialist – NASAR ISIR (16 hrs), FUNSAR (47 hrs)

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## 6.2 Monthly Training

- 6.2.1 Each team member shall participate in a minimum of 48 hours of OSHA certification and skills maintenance training per year.
- 6.2.2 In-service training shall be conducted on a weekly basis.
- 6.2.3 Training dates and topics will be provided to all members with the accompanying position task books prior to training sessions
- 6.2.4 Weekly training for Fire Station 10 will be on Tuesday, this will normally last a maximum of eight hours.
- 6.2.5 Weekly training for Satellite Companies will be on Thursday, this will normally last a maximum of four hours.  
On occasion, training may require a minimal out-of-service period for selected units. This will be pre-approved by the Deputy Chief of Field Operations.
- 6.2.6 Training programs may be delivered by outside instructors. They will be announced as far in advance as possible. Every attempt will be made to offer the training in a manor conducive to the schedules of DFRS members.

## 6.3 Yearly Training

- 6.3.1 All shifts will conform to the training topics as outlined in the yearly training plan.
- 6.3.2 All members will complete the required Position Task Book within the prescribed time period.
- 6.3.3 Completed Position Task Books will be maintained in each members Special Operations file

## 6.4 Seminars and Conferences

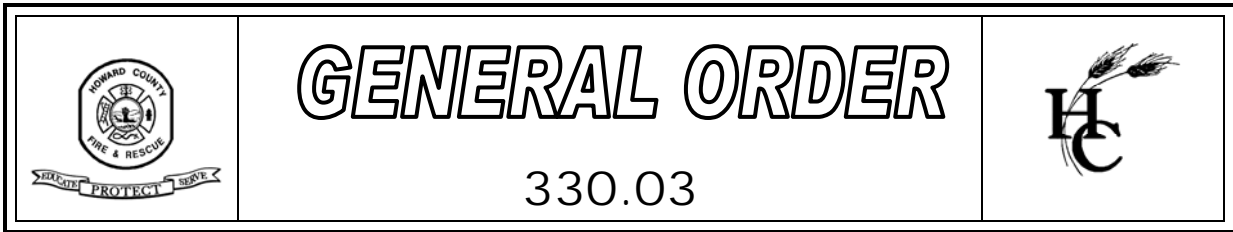
- 6.4.1 Training seminars and conferences will be used to increase the skills, knowledge, and abilities of the individuals and the team.
- 6.4.2 Members will be assigned to advanced (Local, Regional, and National) training courses as operational and fiscal constraints permit.

- 6.5 Failure to meet the training requirements may be grounds for dismissal as a member of the team.

## 7 VOLUNTEER MEMBER PROCEDURES

- 7.1 The fifteen volunteer members will be distributed evenly across all shifts. Each member may participate in training and respond with all shifts. They are encouraged

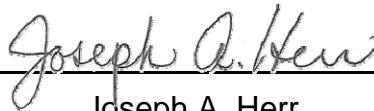
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to participate during training and response with their respective shift to build team confidence.

- 7.2 Volunteer members are permitted to ride the apparatus assigned to Station 10, 11 and Tower 2 on routine fire, rescue, and emergency medical calls.
- 7.3 Requirements for team participation
  - 7.3.1 Two years emergency services experience
  - 7.3.2 Possession of the following training:
    - 7.3.2.1 Firefighter
    - 7.3.2.2 Emergency Medical Technician
    - 7.3.2.3 DFRS Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations, and Decon
    - 7.3.2.4 MFRI Rescue Technician Site Operations, Vehicle Machinery Rescue
- 7.4 Application and selection (information forwarded to Team Leader)
  - 7.4.1 Resume outlining experience and training
  - 7.4.2 Letter of recommendation from Volunteer Chief or Battalion Chief
  - 7.4.3 Copy of training certificates
- 7.5 Requirements
  - 7.5.1 Volunteer team members will use the personal protective equipment supplied by their respective corporation.
  - 7.5.2 Members will be required to have an annual physical and stress test conducted by the County vendor.

Approved:



Joseph A. Herr  
Fire Chief