



GENERAL ORDER

GENERAL ORDER 330.04

Technical Rescue Incidents

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUREAU

Issue Date: 11/30/2000

Revision Date: 06/18/2014

1 APPLICABILITY

2 All Personnel

3 POLICY

4 The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (Department) establishes this policy to assist
5 Incident Commanders in assessing the hazards, identifying the levels of operational capability, and
6 establishing operational criteria when responding to Technical Rescue Incidents. This policy will assist in
7 reducing the severity of accidents, injuries, and exposures to both Department members and the citizens
8 served by the organization. The intent of this policy is to assist in minimizing any risk that is not essential
9 for the immediate protection of human life. No Department member shall conduct or participate in an
10 activity for which he/she is not trained, qualified and/or properly equipped to handle.

11 DEFINITIONS

- 12 ➤ **Awareness Level** - per NFPA 1670, the level of Technical Rescue response/training that represents
13 the minimum capability of organizations that provide response to technical search and rescue
14 incidents.
- 15 ➤ **Incident Commander (IC)** - the individual responsible and accountable for managing the entire
16 incident. There is one Incident Commander for an incident at any given time.
- 17 ➤ **Incident Safety Officer (ISO)** - the individual responsible for overall incident safety throughout the
18 rescue operation, pursuant to Department policy and the Incident Command System. This
19 individual shall report directly to the Incident Commander. The individual assigned as the ISO by
20 the IC shall meet the requirements of NFPA 1521, Standards for Fire Department Safety Officer.
- 21 ➤ **Operations Level** - per NFPA 1670, the level of Technical Rescue response/training that represents
22 the capability of organizations to respond to technical search and rescue incidents and to identify
23 hazards, use equipment, and apply limited techniques specified in the standard to support and
24 participate in technical search and rescue incidents.
- 25 ➤ **Special Operations Team** - Individuals identified pursuant to Department General Order 330.03,
26 Special Operations Team, as having additional specialized training in one or more technical rescue
27 disciplines.
- 28 ➤ **Specialist** - individuals with technical expertise and/or practical knowledge in a specific area (i.e.,
29 Department personnel with extensive knowledge/background in a discipline, or non-Department
30 personnel such as a MOSH inspector, a structural engineer, veterinarian, etc.) who may augment

- 31 on-scene activities by providing essential information or support in their area of expertise.
- 32 ➤ **Technical Safety Officer (TSO)** - a position assigned by the Incident Commander, responsible for
- 33 the safe conduct of all operations in the Technical Rescue group of the Incident Command System.
- 34 This individual shall be a Special Operations Team member or an individual who possesses
- 35 knowledge, training, and experience pertinent to the type of Technical Rescue being conducted.
- 36 The Technical Safety Officer shall report directly to the Incident Safety Officer.
- 37 ➤ **Technical Rescue Incidents** - complex emergencies requiring the involvement of and/or guidance
- 38 from Department members with specialized training and equipment necessary to safely and
- 39 efficiently resolve the emergency. Technical Rescue disciplines include, but are not limited to:
- 40 ○ Confined space rescues
- 41 ○ Rope rescues
- 42 ○ Static water rescues
- 43 ○ Swift water rescues
- 44 ○ Ice rescues
- 45 ○ Structural collapse rescues
- 46 ○ Trench and excavation rescues
- 47 ○ Overland search and rescue operations
- 48 ○ Technical vehicle and machinery rescues
- 49 ➤ **Technician Level** - per NFPA 1670, the level of Technical Rescue response/training that represents
- 50 the capability of organizations to respond to technical search and rescue incidents and to identify
- 51 hazards, use equipment, and apply advanced techniques specified in the standard necessary to
- 52 coordinate, perform, and supervise technical search and rescue incidents.

53 PROCEDURES

54 GENERAL

55 Each response to a Technical Rescue Incident shall be evaluated upon arrival by the Incident Commander

56 (IC) to assess operational needs and any level of risk to Department personnel.

57

58 The Special Operations Team shall be dispatched to all Technical Rescue Incidents, pursuant to

59 Department General Order 410.01, Communications and Department General Order 330.03, Special

60 Operations Team.

- 61 • Dispatch of the Special Operations Team to the scene may be based on:
- 62 ○ Information available to the call-taker in Communications prior to the arrival of Department
- 63 personnel at the scene;
- 64 ○ The discretion of the IC once he/she has assessed the risk and sized-up the emergency
- 65 scene; or
- 66 ○ The discretion of the on-duty Battalion Chief.

67 Upon arrival at the emergency scene, members of the Special Operations Team shall assist in the

68 mitigation of the Technical Rescue as directed by the IC.

69

70 All operations at the scene of a Technical Rescue Incident shall be performed in a safe manner consistent

71 with the identified level of operational capability.

72

73 When conducting a training exercise, body recovery, evidence search, incident involving animals, or other

74 operations not essential to the immediate protection of human life, the IC shall utilize the same

75 procedures employed during an actual rescue operation but at a level of urgency commensurate with the

76 risk/benefit analysis.

77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124

Only personnel trained and certified at the level of Technician and Specialist shall be allowed to participate in high risk situations.

GUIDELINES FOR SCENE SAFETY AT TECHNICAL RESCUE INCIDENTS

While at the scene, all Department members shall comply with guidelines set forth in:

- Department General Order 300.02, Accountability
- Department General Order 300.04, Mayday
- Department General Order 300.07, Incident Command System
- Department General Order 300.11, Rapid Intervention Crew

An Advanced Life Support (ALS)-staffed unit (i.e., apparatus with ALS personnel and equipment, but not necessarily transport capabilities) shall be dispatched to and available on the scene of all incidents where Department members are operating in positions or performing functions that, in the opinion of the IC, pose a high risk potential of injury to members.

- Personnel assigned to this unit shall be dedicated to caring for the well-being of Department members on the scene.
- An on-scene, ALS-staffed unit shall be present on Technical Rescue operations and training exercises.

The IC shall assign an Incident Safety Officer (ISO) at the scene of all Technical Rescue Incidents. The ISO shall be readily identifiable by a high visibility vest throughout the duration of incident operations.

The ISO shall coordinate all efforts with the IC. Responsibilities of the ISO, shall include, but are not limited to:

- Overall incident safety;
- Continual monitoring of the hot zone and point of entry accountability;
- Continual monitoring of the risk/benefit analysis;
- Assisting in the development of an Incident Action Plan (IAP) to rotate personnel during the scene operations in order to reduce stress and fatigue;
- Recommendation for the establishing of a Technical Safety Officer (TSO) should conditions warrant; and
- Immediately inform the IC of any actions taken to correct imminent hazards within the Technical Rescue Incident operational zone.

The ISO shall have the authority to alter, suspend, or terminate any activities he/she judges to be unsafe or to involve an imminent hazard at the Technical Rescue scene.

When warranted, the IC shall assign a TSO at the scene of Technical Rescue Incidents. The TSO shall be readily identifiable by vest throughout the duration of scene operations. The TSO shall:

- Be responsible for safety within the Technical Rescue group.
- Have the authority to alter, suspend, or terminate any activities he/she judges to be unsafe or to involve an imminent hazard within the Technical Rescue group.
- Immediately inform the ISO of any actions taken to correct imminent hazards within the Technical Rescue Group.
- Ensure that the level of Department involvement does not exceed the protection level provided by the clothing;
 - the limitations of the equipment; or,

- 125 ○ the knowledge and capabilities of the rescuers.
- 126 ● The IC, with the assistance of the ISO and/or TSO, shall ensure that the appropriate protective
- 127 clothing and equipment are available and utilized, as applicable, during the Technical Rescue
- 128 operation.

129
130 Prior to commencement of rescue activities, the IC shall conduct an operational briefing with all rescuers
131 and support personnel to address:

- 132 ● The potential impact of the operation.
- 133 ● The safety and welfare of all on-scene rescuers.
- 134 ● The safety and welfare of the patient(s).
- 135 ● Any other relevant scene activities.

136 137 **GUIDELINES FOR OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT**

138 All Technical Rescue equipment shall be used and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's
139 instructions, to include re-certification and/or calibration.

140
141 During weekly apparatus checks, Technical Rescue equipment shall be checked for inventory and
142 serviceability.

143
144 A logbook for each type of equipment shall be maintained at each fire station and training facility to track
145 current inventory to include, but not be limited to:

- 146 ● use and/or deployment of rope;
- 147 ● calibration and/or sensor replacement of atmospheric monitors;
- 148 ● use and/or deployment of fall protection devices (to include re-certification of tripod winch
- 149 devices); and
- 150 ● re-certification of protective clothing.

151
152 Members shall be trained in the care, use, inspection, maintenance, and limitations of the equipment
153 assigned and/or available for their use.

154 155 **TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING AND DOCUMENTATION**

156 Technical Rescue training shall be made available to all operational members. The scope and type of this
157 training shall be based upon the member's expected level of incident participation and responsibility.

158 Members shall be allowed to participate at incidents only to the level for which they are properly trained
159 and certified.

160
161 Special Operations Team personnel shall be expected to perform at the Technician or Specialist Level and
162 shall be trained and certified accordingly.

163
164 Annual performance evaluations (re-certifications) for Technical Rescue Technicians shall be conducted
165 on all Special Operations personnel and equipment, pursuant to the guidelines of NFPA 1670, Standard
166 on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents.

167
168 Master documentation for all initial training, certifications and annual re-certification shall be maintained
169 by the Bureau of Education and Training.

170
171 Documentation regarding training and certification for each member shall be available for inspection by
172 that member and his/her authorized representatives.

173

174

REFERENCES

175

- Department General Order 300.02, Accountability

176

- Department General Order 300.04, Mayday

177

- Department General Order 300.07, Incident Command System

178

- Department General Order 300.11, Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)

179

- Department General Order 330.04, Technical Rescue Incidents

180

- Department General Order 410.01, Communications

181

- National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1670, Standard on Operations for Technical Rescue Incidents

182

183

- National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1521, Standards for Fire Department Safety Officer

184

- National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 472, Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents

185

186

- Howard County Policy and Procedure 200.11, Confined Space Policy

187

- Special Operations Trench/Excavation Tactical Operations Guides

188

- Applicable local, state and federal laws

189

SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT CHANGES

190

Revision for formatting and updating to current NFPA standards and Department orders. GEW 3059

191

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

192

193

APPROVED

194

195



Deputy Chief John S. Butler
Operations Command

196

197

198