

	Standard Operating Guideline	
	SOG Name:	Technical Rescue Response
	SOG Number:	100.11
	Standard:	TBD
	Guideline Owner:	Emergency Operations – Incident Operations
	Implementation Date:	June 10, 2021
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PURPOSE: The objectives of technical rescue response SOG are to establish a general response policy for technical rescue incidents, standardized the handling of technical rescue incidents; and establish an incident command structure to manage technical rescue incidents.

A. CAPABILITIES

SECTION 1

The Dothan Fire Department (DFD) will respond to and operate at the following types of technical rescue incidents:

1. Rope Rescue—low and high angle
2. Confined Space Rescue
3. Trench Rescue
4. Heavy Equipment/Farm Machinery/Industrial Machinery extrication
5. Structural Collapse
6. Water Rescue
7. Search & Rescue-Urban and Wilderness
8. Elevator incidents (Complex access)
9. Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Incidents
10. Any operation where the incident commander (IC) deems it necessary to use specialized personnel and/or equipment

B. DEFINITIONS

1. Technical Rescue: any incident in which specialized equipment and personnel are required to access, disentangle, or remove victims trapped in unusual or extremely dangerous environments.
2. Vehicle Rescue: incidents where normal and abnormal means of gaining access and disentanglement of vehicles is necessary to effect a rescue or recovery of victim(s).
3. Rope Rescue: incidents above and below grade where the use of rope and related rigging hardware and software are necessary to effect a rescue or recovery of a victim(s).
4. Trench Rescue: any incident where trenches or excavations have collapsed or underground incidents require special sheeting, shoring, and atmospheric monitoring to effect a rescue or recovery of a victim(s).
5. Confined Space Rescue: any incident requiring entry into a confined spaces per OSHA standards and situations requiring breathing apparatus, explosion proof lighting, atmospheric monitoring, and permitted entry where rescue or recovery of a victim(s) may be necessary.
6. Structural Collapse: all structures where special shoring, entry, and rescue or recovery operations are necessary. This may include assisting at an emergency scene

- in the shoring of fire damaged floors, roofs, or walls, to ensure a safe working environment for the interior crews and/or investigators.
7. Water Rescue: any incident that involves the removal of victims from any body of water other than a swimming pool. This includes rivers, creeks, lakes, washes, storm drains, or any body of water, whether still or moving.
 8. Airport Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF): incidents where aircraft crashes may require forcible entry, gaining access, and/or disentanglement of a victim(s). May include different tactics for firefighting
 9. Heavy Equipment/Farm Machinery/Industrial Equipment - incidents where construction, industrial, or farm equipment may require specialized stabilization, lifting, cutting, disassembly, and manipulation of equipment to rescue or recover a victim(s).
 10. Elevator Rescue - incidents where normal and abnormal means of gaining access and disentanglement of elevator components is necessary to effect a rescue or recovery of a victim(s).

C. RESCUE INCIDENT LEVELS

SECTION 1

The following guidelines classify technical rescue incidents into three levels of complexity and resource commitment. The discipline and level of the incident can be reported by the IC or Communications Center. This will help identify the magnitude of the incident and inform the responding companies as to the initial size-up and projected resource requirements.

SECTION 2

When reporting the level of an incident, the following terminology shall be used:

1. **RESCUE LEVEL 1:** a technical rescue controlled by initial response personnel (usually an engine company). Personnel should recognize hazards, stabilize, and bring routine incident under control with methods and equipment from a single company response.
2. **RESCUE LEVEL II:** a technical rescue which requires initial response personnel (engine company) and support personnel (truck company). Personnel should recognize hazards, stabilize, and bring the majority of uncomplicated incidents under control with technical methods and equipment from engine and truck companies. A Battalion Chief shall respond to all Rescue Level 2 incidents.
3. **RESCUE LEVEL III:** a technical rescue which requires initial response personnel (engine company), support personnel (truck company), and special operations personnel and equipment (Rescue 4 & Rescue 9). Personnel should recognize hazards, stabilize, and bring complicated incidents under control with technical methods and equipment from engine companies, truck companies, and Rescue 4/9. A Battalion Chief, Duty Officer, Training Officer, and Training-1 shall be dispatched to all Rescue Level 3 incidents.

D. RESPONSE**SECTION 1**

DISPATCHING - The Incident Commander shall order a Technical Rescue Response when a specialized rescue situation exists or when it has been determined by the Communications Center.

SECTION 2

RESPONSE - Appropriate resources shall respond when their company is activated for an incident. The tiered response to technical rescue incidents is a complex and important process. Basically an engine company provides an initial size-up and foundation to build personnel and equipment resources. Depending on the complexity of the incident, truck companies and Rescue 4/9 may be activated to provide additional resources to stabilize and bring the incident under control. Certain incidents require all of the resources to be dispatched at the initial assignment. It is extremely important not to leave gaps in the tiered resource response. For example, if a truck company was left off the initial assignment of a Confined Space incident, there would be limited personnel and no ventilation equipment or ladders to use at the scene. In order to provide a tiered response of resources to properly stabilize, support, and mitigate technical rescue incidents, the following response resources shall be assigned for each type of incident indicated:

1. VEHICLE COLLISIONS/Machinery Extrications**RESCUE LEVEL 1**

(No Entrapment)

One Paramedic Engine

One Ambulance

NOTE* (Dispatch the quantity of engines and ambulances needed to handle the number of injured victims).

RESCUE LEVEL 2

(Entrapment, Overturned, or Possible Trapped Victim)

One Engine

One Truck Company

One Battalion Chief

One Ambulance

NOTE* (Dispatch the quantity of engines and ambulances needed to handle the number of injured victims). Consider Rescue 4

RESCUE LEVEL 3 (Consider MCI)

Two Engines

One Battalion Chief

Truck Company

Rescue 4

Ambulances

Duty Officer

Training Officer

NOTE* (Dispatch the quantity of engines and ambulances needed to handle the number of injured victims).

2. TRENCH RESCUE

RESCUE LEVEL 3

Two Engines & One Truck Company

One Battalion Chief

Rescue 4 (Consider Rescue 9)

Duty Officer

Training Officer

One Ambulance

3. ROPE RESCUE INCIDENTS

RESCUE LEVEL 3

Two Engines & One Truck Company

One Battalion Chief

Rescue 4 (Additional Engine if Rescue 4 is only brought by Driver only)

Duty Officer

One Ambulance

4. CONFINED SPACE OPERATIONS

RESCUE LEVEL 3

Two Engines & One Truck Company

One Battalion Chief

Rescue 4 (Additional Engine if Rescue 4 is only brought by Driver only)

Duty Officer

One Ambulance

5. WATER RESCUE AND RECOVERY

RESCUE LEVEL 3

Two Engines & One Truck Company

One Battalion Chief

Rescue 4 (Additional Engine if Rescue 4 is only brought by Driver only)

Water Rescue Trailer

Duty Officer

One Ambulance

6. **STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE**

RESCUE LEVEL 3

Two Engine Companies

One Battalion Chief

One Truck Company

Rescue 4 (Additional Engine if Rescue 4 is only brought by Driver only)

Duty Officer

One Ambulance

Note: May require a higher amount of resources based on how many structures are collapsed. Consider Mutual Aid through AMAS early

(Signature on File)

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