

---

<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Rescinds</b>
Water / Ice Rescue	1 October 2005	NEW

---

<b>Reference</b>		
Norwich Township Fire Department SOG-s #33		Page 1 of 3

---

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this procedure is to provide a guideline for the operation at incidents or situations that may arise during the course of an operation. Each member is expected to know, understand and operate according to this guideline as each situation arises.

### **Responsibility:**

- I.** It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to implement this operating guideline.
- II.** It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to train members in the application of this guideline.
- III.** It shall be the responsibility of each member to know, understand and use this guideline as it applies to the situation at hand. Each member will use good judgment in the use of this guideline.

### **Guideline:**

**GENERAL SAFETY:**

All personnel working in or near the water / ice area including but not limited to 15 feet, or working in a boat shall don either a USCG approved Type III or Type IV PFD (Personal Floatation Device) or an insulated cold water rescue suit.

**1. Working times in Water:**

Working time in water is directly related to the temperature of the water and is established to prevent the effects of hypothermia on a rescuer wearing an insulated suit.

<b>WATER TEMP</b>	<b>MINUTES IN WATER</b>
Above 75 degrees F	60 minutes maximum
Between 45 and 75 degrees F	45 minutes maximum
Below 44 degrees F	20 minutes maximum

**2. Methods of Rescue:**

Each situation will determine the proper method of rescue, however, the safety of the rescuer is of the utmost importance and in an effort to minimize risk to the rescuers, the concept of **REACH, THROW**, then **GO** shall be utilized.

**REACH, THROW, GO**

A. Always attempt too **REACH** victim(s) with one of the following but not limited to:

1. pike pole
2. ground ladder across ice
3. inflated 2 ½” or 3” hose section

NOTE – a hose section inflated to 100psi will hold up to 10 people afloat. Tie guide ropes to the leading end of the hose as it is pushed to the victim will provide some ability to steer the hose to the victim.

B. **THROW** rope bags or water rescue disk to the victim(s)

1. attempt to throw device over the victim
2. be sure to hold on to , or anchor the loose end

C. **GO** using a PFD, swim to the victim(s) taking an extra PFD or life ring to them

Note – do not allow the victim(s) to grab hold of you the rescuer.

1. The use of a boat is strongly recommended for a victim(s) far from shore and use of the motor should be limited

- a. All personnel using a boat should be well trained in the operation and limitations of that boat.
- b. In regards to the boat at Station 81, all work performed from the boat should be accomplished from the front(bow) or, if the motor is not in place, from the rear(stern). Attempted rescue from the side could result in capsize.

**COLD WATER / ICE**

- A. Use of an insulated water rescue suit is required
- B. A tether line shall be attached to the REAR of the suit and tended at all times the rescuer is in the water.
- C. Rescuers may need to take tools including but not limited to ice awls, pike pole, chain saws, ladder, webbing, and ropes. The situation presented will determine many of the equipment needs.
- D. Rescuers working on ice should use all means to distribute their weight over the surface and be prepared for breakthrough at all times. Use of a ground ladder is a recommended method of accomplishing this.
- E. When using the boat as a platform on ice rescue operations the stern of the boat should be tethered on each corner to assist in returning to shore.

**RESCUER SAFETY**

An equal number of backup rescuers should be dressed and ready in case they are needed.

Approved by Assistant Chief / Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By Chief /Date \_\_\_\_\_