Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section **Equipment**	**Referral No.** **E-25**	**Subject:** **Rescue Boat - General Operation**	**Date Issued** **03/08**	**Date Revised** **11/11**

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for the safe operation of the rescue boat.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- **Officer**
  - All officers will ensure that personnel will be properly trained to operate the boat.
  - Provide direction based on the Incident Management System.
  - Ensure the safety of all personnel.
- **Personnel**
  - All personnel have the responsibility to wear the proper safety equipment and operating in a safe manner.
  - All personnel have the responsibility of qualifying to operate the boat during their probationary period.
  - All personnel will have the responsibility of operating the boat in a safe manner.
  - Persons born on or after January 1, 1982, who operate a boat powered by greater than 10 horse power motor, must successfully pass a NASBLA approved boating education course or proficiency exam.

Guidelines:

- **Safety is always our first priority**
- Truck 1305 shall be the unit designated to tow the boat.
- When backing the trailer, be sure to use a spotter.
- When manually transporting the boat over land, a minimum of four personnel shall be used.
- When donning or doffing the boat from the trailer, the use of a tether-line to shore is required.
- Ensure that the fuel tank is placed in the boat prior to removing the boat from the trailer.
- After being placed in the water the boat motor should be in the down position and the propeller completely submerged in the water prior to starting.
  - Be sure the propeller is clear of anything it may cause damage or injury, prior to starting.
- Starting procedures:
  - Attach the fuel-line to the motor and use hand-pump to prime the line. (2-3 pumps)
  - Ensure that the motor is in the neutral position
  - Activate the choke and pull the starting cord

  - After the motor has turned-over, de-activate the choke
- When refueling the boat, be sure to use a 50 to 1 (two cycle) gas/oil mixture.
- When transporting the boat to and from an incident, ensure the boat and all related equipment is secured to the trailer properly.
- IT IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE FOR PERSONNEL TO RIDE IN THE BOAT WHILE ON THE TRAILER.

Equipment:

- Personal Flotation Device (PFD) – All personnel involved with water rescue incidents must wear PFD's at all times when in or near the water.
- Personnel involved in water rescue will wear Cold Water Rescue Suits
    - Water temperature can be misconceiving. Cold water dramatically decreases dexterity, increases confusion, as well as limiting the time you can work a rescue in the water.