Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section **Operations**	**Referral No.** **O-45**	**Subject:** **Response to Ice Rescue Incidents**	**Date Issued** **03/08**	**Date Revised** **11/13**

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for safe emergency response to ice rescue incidents and define the response plan for ice rescue incidents.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
  - Ensure that personnel respond properly.
  - Provide direction based on the Incident Management System.
  - Ensure the safety of all personnel.
    - Remember: **NO ICE is SAFE ICE**.
- Personnel
  - All personnel have the responsibility of following the direction of Incident Command
  - All personnel have the responsibility to wear the proper safety equipment and to operate in a safe manner.

Guidelines:

- **Safety is always our first priority**
- **A "Full Response" shall be initiated for all Ice Rescue Incidents**
- When dispatched to a ice rescue incident, Rescue 9 will respond
- Medic 6, 7, Ladder 1, and Truck 5 will respond with the boat
- **Rescue Priorities:**
  1. Safety of the rescuers
  2. Safety of the victims
  3. Body recovery
- **Equipment:**
  - Personal Floatation Device (PFD) – All personnel involved with ice rescue incidents **MUST** wear PFD's at all times when in or within 25 feet of the water.
  - Ice rescue suit – anyone venturing onto the ice will be wearing an ice rescue suit.
  - Anyone venturing on the ice in an ice rescue suit will be tethered to shore.
  - Anyone venturing onto the ice will be capable of performing self-rescue.
  - Any personnel using ice rescue equipment will be trained in its use.

- **Basic Safety Rules:**
  - DO NOT wear structural firefighting PPE in or near the water
  - Do not overextend yourself
  - Do not become a victim
  - Always bathe thoroughly after entering any body of water due to pollution hazard

- **Risk Priorities:**
  - Shore-based: least risky. Use poles, floats, throw bags, air filled hose, etc. to make contact with the victim.
  - Tethered rescuer: A rescuer wearing an ice rescue suit that is secured by a rope tended by another rescuer on land may be used to reach the victim/s.
  - ON ice / In water contact: venture onto the ice then enter the water to physically remove the victim from the water and return them to shore. **THIS IS VERY RISKY**

- **NO GO Situations:**
  - Submerged vehicles
  - Entrapped
  - Sharp metal
  - Suspended ice roof
  - Current .5 knots (50ft/min)
  - Drift ice
  - Contaminated water

- Have dispatch contact the ACSO Dive Team and place them on standby.
- Ensure that there is a separate medical crew for the victim and the rescuers, call private EMS if necessary.
- Create a staging area.
- Set up HOT, WARM and COLD zones.
- Interview any witnesses
- Assess victim/s
- Create map of victim/s location/s
- Establish rehab area
- The dispatcher will be notified when a rescuer has ventured onto the ice.
- Advise the hospital of possible hypothermia patients, and multiple patients when necessary.
- Ice rescue incidents require a large number of people to complete them safely, if mutual aid is needed, don't hesitate to ask for it

- Advise dispatch when the rescuer has returned to shore.
- Handle any victims gently and treat for hypothermia.
- Any rescuers who enter the water will be transported to the hospital for evaluation.
- Any damage or malfunction of any equipment shall be reported to an officer and a repair slip filled out and submitted to that officer.

- **Victim Assessment:**
  - AGGRESSIVE
  - SELF RESCUE
  - ALERT
  - PASSIVE
  - SUBMERGED

- **Medical contraindications for ice rescue technicians:**
  - Asthma is a contraindication
  - Hypertension is disqualifying criteria
  - Vasoconstriction problems
  - Dehydration
  - Rescuers who are already cold and possibly hypothermic