

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.527	Effective Date:	6/12/2015
Title:	Ice Rescue	# of pages:	2
Category:	Special Operations	Classification:	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide guidance concerning basic ice rescue procedures and equipment.
2. **PROCEDURES:**

Dispatch: Upon a report of a person or persons in an unsafe position on the ice or through the ice, at a minimum, an engine/ladder and ambulance unit shall be dispatched. Additionally, Prime Mover 402 with the Rescue Alive ice sled should also be dispatched. When the location is in the Harbor waters then the Portland Fire Dept. water rescue assets and US Coast Guard shall also be requested. Additional resources may be sent as requested or deemed appropriate according to the information received by dispatch.

Arrival: Upon arrival of the first unit(s), Command shall be established as per SOG and a size-up performed. Additional units shall be called and unneeded units returned as indicated. A critical size-up point is to establish voice contact with the victim(s) as soon as possible to determine the exact number of victims involved including some that may be under the surface. Additionally, the victim(s) must be assessed for condition especially if multiple trips will be required to retrieve all victims. One person should be assigned to maintain visual and voice contact with the victim(s) at all times.

Rescue Process: Rescue attempts shall follow the risk order of "Reach, Throw, Go". Attempts shall be made to advise the victim(s) on self rescue, reaching with pike poles "Reach" or using throw bags "Throw" when appropriate in order to reduce the hazards posed by a "Go" rescue.

When a Go rescue is initiated a single rescuer wearing an ice water rescue suit shall proceed to the victim(s) with the Rescue Alive sled. This rescuer shall be attached to the carabineer at the end of a retrieval line with the large carabineer attached to the sled's retrieval point. An additional rescuer in an ice water rescue suit will standby on shore attached to a second retrieval line as a safety backup. The retrieval line will be tended by a shore crew.

When the rescuer has secured the victim(s) on the Rescue Alive sled he/she shall signal for retrieval by placing a hand on top of his/her head. The shore crew shall haul the sled to shore being careful not to upset the sled in rough ice or changing conditions. The rescuer on the sled may signal the crew to stop hauling by raising a hand straight up above the head.

Multiple Victims: In the event that multiple victims are present additional ice water rescue suited personnel may be deployed. These personnel shall also be tethered as above. They may accompany the Rescue Alive sled to a group of victims in order to maintain a FD

presence in between multiple trips. If victims are not close together, this additional rescuer may be sent establish contact with the least endangered victim until the sled is available for retrieval. In the majority of situations the victim should be retrieved by the sled in order to reduce injury potential and increase safety. If multiple rescuers are on the ice / in the water then additional safety personnel should be suited up and in place.

Non - Sled Rescue: If the Rescue Alive sled is unavailable or involved with another victim then victims may be hauled onto the ice by other means. This usually means an ice water rescue suited rescuer approaching the victim from behind and securing the rope from shore around the victim's chest using the large carabineer. This will allow the shore crew to apply rope tension to slide the victim up onto the ice with whatever assistance the rescuer can add from behind. The rescuer can then be assisted onto the ice by rope tension from shore as the victim is pulled further from the hole. Unless immediately necessary, hauling should stop as soon as the victim and rescuer are out of the water. Retrieval is best done using the sled and victim cooling is substantially reduced once the victim is out of the water.

Equipment: Ice rescue equipment shall be carried on permanent engine companies and rescue units. Basic equipment consists of ice water rescue suits, rope throw bags and retrieval lines. Additional equipment includes the Rescue Alive ice sled and accessories. Rope throw bags may be used for both ice and water rescue of persons able to grasp the rope, these bags shall contain rope (Class 5) only with no carabineers or other fasteners. Retrieval lines may also be used for water or ice rescue and are intended to be attached to the rescuer to allow retrieval of the victim and rescuer together with the assistance of a shore group. These ropes shall be equipped with a carabineer at each. The carabineer at the top of the rope bag shall be attached to the rescuer's harness. Approximately 5-6' from this carabineer shall be tied a large (ladder hook size) non-locking carabineer.

3. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:

Kevin W Guimond

Kevin W. Guimond
Fire Chief