

<table border="1"> <tr> <td>HR LF</td> <td>HR HF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LR LF</td> <td>LR HF</td> </tr> </table>	HR LF	HR HF	LR LF	LR HF	<p align="center">Massachusetts Fire District - 14 Technical Rescue Team Rope Rescue Operations TRT 3100-18-011</p>	<p align="center">Effective Date 10/17/2019</p>
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I) PURPOSE/SCOPE/APPLICATION

- A) The Purpose of this SOG is to provide guidelines for safe and effective use of technical rope rescue equipment during emergency operations.
- B) These guidelines are designed to provide general guidelines when dealing with any incident requiring rescue by rope whether low or high angle.
- C) This SOG shall be applied for all Rope Rescue Operations.

II) REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- A) N/A

III) DEFINITIONS

- A) N/A

IV) SPECIALIZED ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A) All members are be responsible for enforcing this SOG.

V) SAFETY

- A) It must be understood that rope rescue operations are to be attempted as a last means of rescue, if all other means of rescue are not feasible. It should also be understood that this guideline is in no way intended to be all-inclusive. During rope rescue operations, judgment, experience, training, and coordination among team members is an absolute necessity

VI) ENFORCEMENT

- A) Failure to understand this Standard Operating Guideline may result in disciplinary action.

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- B) Any deviation from this Standard Operating Guideline may require a written report to the Chief overseeing the team and/or the District 14 Chair.
- C) This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.

VII) STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

A) Initial Size-Up

- 1) During initial stages of an incident in which rope rescue may be necessary, the first arriving personnel must obtain certain information. The following information needs to be obtained and relayed to the team upon arrival:
 - (a) Location of victim
 - (b) How is victim suspended or supported?
 - (c) What is patient's condition (conscious, injuries, etc.)? Can contact be made with victim?
 - (d) Is the victim "hanging" or is he simply "stranded"?
 - (e) Can the victim be reached by any other method?
- 2) If the information gathered suggests that rescue by rope is the only method usable to rescue the victim complete the following:
 - (a) Brief the team, and establish staging and equipment area.

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- (b) Establish a visible command structure and organize personnel as they arrive with command positions and assignments.

B) Rescue and Termination

- 1) Once a decision has been made to either affect a rescue by rope or downgrade the operations to a body recovery, the following guidelines will be followed:
 - (a) NFPA Standard #1983 will be followed as conditions warrant whenever possible.
 - (b) All rescues will be done by the lowering of the rescuer whenever possible. No rappels will be done unless absolute necessary!
 - (c) Rapid deployment bags are to be used to improve rescue operation.
 - (d) All rescuers will use the Class III harness or Class II harness for rope rescue.
 - (e) All victim and rescuer load lines will be on at least two separate lines (one main line and one safety) of at least ½ inch kern mantle rope. Both lines will be attached to separate bombproof anchors.
 - (f) All victim transport systems, e.g., stokes basket, sked stretcher, victim must be attached to said device.
 - (g) Any point where the rope passes over an edge, an edge protector must be used or direction of rope altered to prevent rope abrasion.
 - (h) Proper PPE, e.g., helmets, gloves, eyewear, and proper clothing will be worn by all rescuers during rescue operation.
 - (i) All non-essential personnel should be removed from the rigging and operations area.

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- (j) A clearly established “rescue officer and safety officer” will be established. When possible, the highest certified team member in rope rescue should be designated the rescue officer or edge manager.
- (k) When victim is in need of immediate medical attention, an Advanced Life Support Personnel of the tech rescue team should be considered first in gaining access to victim and packaging patient, as well as tending to victim during rescue.
- (l) Before rescuer attaches to main line, the REACH acronym will be checked visually and physically.
 - (1) R - rigging
 - (2) E - equipment
 - (3) A - anchors
 - (4) C - carabiners
 - (5) H - harness
- (m) Verbal and hand signals will be used on emergency scene as forms of communication.
- (n) Load Releasing Hitch will be placed on all safety lines.
- (o) All stages of the rescue operation should be communicated to the incident commander for logging of times and coordination.
- (p) Before rescuer goes on line a form of retrieval will be ready available (i.e., 4 to 1 haul system).
- (q) After victim rescued all equipment will be checked for damage before placing back in service and record of its use will be logged.

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VIII) RECORDS, REPORTS, CHARTS, FORMS

A)

Sog Review Dates: