



CHARLOTTESVILLE - ALBEMARLE RESCUE SQUAD



STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

TOPIC: Squad Truck Operations	S.O.P. # 5.3
Approved by: Lair D. Haugh, Chief	Revised: 2/9/2003 Approved:

I. PURPOSE

- a. To provide uniform guidelines for day-to-day emergency operations for Squad 133, Squad 134, and Squad 135.

II. DEFINITIONS

- a. Heavy Squad - Designated as Squad 133 and Squad 134. Vehicles equipped for a variety of rescue situations including vehicle, high-angle, MCI, confined space, and limited hazardous environments.
- b. Squad Technician - member in good standing who has met the minimum training requirements and is capable of beginning rescue operations with minimal supervision.
- c. Squad Operator I - A squad technician who has met the minimum training requirements and is capable of operating and driving Squad 134.
- d. Squad Operator II - A squad technician who has met the minimum training requirements and is capable of operating and driving Squad 133, Squad 134, and Squad 135.
- e. Senior Rescue Technician - (SRT) A squad operator with advanced training in rescue techniques, experienced in many phases of rescue operations, and is trained in Incident Command and Hazardous Materials.

III. OPERATIONS

- a. A Squad shall respond, but not be limited to, the following situations:
 - i. Motor vehicle accident (MVA) with reported entrapment or pin.
 - ii. Any MVA after dark at the discretion of the on-duty squad operator, crew captain, or Duty Officer.
- b. MVA's where injury or entrapment cannot be verified (unknown).
- c. Reported or actual special rescue situations (high angle, confined space, trench, etc.).
- d. Structure fires - second alarm or greater - or as requested by the fire department incident commander.
- e. The request of outlying agencies.

IV. RESPONSE PROTOCOL

- a. The squad response protocols are defined below, however, the squads are interchangeable and if one is not available the other squad must respond regardless of the nature of the incident when possible.
- b. Squad 133:
 - i. Structure fires.
 - ii. Incidents involving buses, tractor-trailers or trains.
 - iii. Incidents on I-64, Rt. 29, or Rt 250.
 - iv. When requested by the Incident Commander.
- c. Squad 134:
 - i. Any squad response when clearance or weight is a problem.

- ii. Any response where there is a possibility of off-road use.
- iii. When the road conditions necessitate a four-wheel drive squad.
 - 1. See the Severe Weather Operations SOG.
- iv. All incidents that a squad response is due on other than those listed for Squad 133.
- d. Squad 135:
 - i. Reported high-angle rescues
 - ii. Reported trench collapse rescues
 - iii. Reported building collapse rescues
 - iv. Reported confined space rescues

V. STAFFING

- a. Minimum staffing for any response shall be a squad operator.
 - i. There shall be a second CARS member, who is a Squad Technician or above, any time the heavy squad responds to a call outside the primary response area.
- b. Senior Rescue Technicians (SRT's) shall be notified to respond to any incident that the squad responds to if no SRT is responding with the squad.
 - i. Exceptions:
 - 1. The squad is responding to provide lighting for accidents at night.
 - 2. The squad is responding to an accident with unknown injury and/or entrapment.
 - 3. The Duty Officer is a SRT.
- c. The Duty Officer shall be notified of the situation.
- d. A second person on the squad is encouraged. If that person is not a released EMT, then that person is to be utilized as a spotter for backing or in a support role at the scene.

VI. SAFETY

- a. All rescue operations shall be executed by accepted standards with the safety of the patients and rescuers being the primary concern.
- b. In the absence of the Duty Officer, the senior squad operator present is responsible for overall scene safety and will ensure that all actions of rescue personnel are carried out in a safe manner.
- c. All personnel involved in rescue operations shall wear appropriate protective clothing at all times during the incident to the extent possible.
- d. Appropriate protective clothing for vehicle extraction incidents involving hand-tools only shall be:
 - i. Helmet
 - ii. Eye safety goggles
 - iii. Turnout coat
 - iv. Gloves
 - v. Sturdy footwear that includes steel toe.
- e. Appropriate protective clothing for incidents involving power tools or hydraulics:
 - i. Full turn- out gear (in addition to the items listed above)
- f. Appropriate protective gear during special incidents such as high-angle, trench, confined space or hazardous materials is incident specific, but should always include head, eye, hand, foot and respiratory protection where appropriate.
- g. Any action taken during a working incident that is considered to be unsafe by the senior rescue member in-charge or safety sector will be stopped immediately.
- h. The Safety Committee shall investigate all reports of unsafe actions or conduct that have endangered personnel or patients during a working incident.