

	<b>ROPE RESCUE</b> <b>2600</b>		<b>TFCA Best Practices:</b> <b>4.01</b>		
	Effective: 3/2010	Revision: 05/20/15	Fire Chief: Eric Thompson 		

## PURPOSE

To provide procedures for the safe and effective use of technical rope rescue equipment during emergency operations.

## POLICY

This policy is designed to provide general guidelines when dealing with any incident requiring rescue by rope.

## INTRODUCTION

Rope rescue operations are to be attempted only as a last option. All other means of access and egress must be considered first. During rope rescue operations, judgment, experience, training, and coordination among team members is an absolute necessity.

## RESCUE OPERATIONS

1. NFPA Standard #1983 will be followed, whenever possible.
2. All victim loads will be on at least two separate lines of at least 1/2 inch in diameter. Both lines will be attached to separate "bombproof" anchors.
3. All victim transport systems must be securely attached to the victims. No free, short non-secured rides will be permissible.
4. Any point where the rope passes a stationary object, the object must be padded or the direction of the rope altered to prevent rope chaffing.
5. All single line rappels will be bottom belayed. If a bottom belay is not possible, a top belay will be used.
6. Helmets will be worn at all times when on an emergency scene and gloves will be worn whenever actually on rope.
7. All non-essential personnel shall be removed from the rigging and operations areas.
8. A clearly identified "RIG MASTER" and "SAFETY OFFICER" will be established. When possible, the highest rope rescue level certified team member shall be designated the rig master.
9. All stages of the rescue operations shall be communicated to the Incident Commander for logging of times and coordination.

### Directions:

1. A technical rescue incident will generally include incidents that involve trench, confined space, swift water, dive teams, high angle, structural collapse and mass casualty incidents.
2. The Incident Management System will be used during any technical rescue response.
3. Command will be established on any technical rescue response. The command post will be established outside of the area of IDLH.
4. All technical rescue responses will be determined to be a rescue or recovery prior to deployment of personnel into the area of IDLH.

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5. The technical rescue incident will be divided into protective action zones (cold, warm, and hot).
6. Any offensive operation must establish an IRIC of at least 2 personnel that are outside the immediate hazard area. This crew can have other functions but cannot function in the area of IDLH.
7. After sufficient companies arrive on the scene, a dedicated RIC will be established with at least one member being an officer.
8. The 2-In/2-Out rule will be strictly enforced throughout the incident.
9. The first arriving company on the scene will provide a full size-up of the situation.
10. A Safety Officer will be assigned on all technical rescue operations.
11. All personnel working on the scene will work within the Accountability System.
12. Company passports will be collected at the Command Post, prior to the companies being allowed into the area of IDLH.
13. Personnel Accountability Reports (PAR) will be called after every major scene event. PARs will be compared against the passports at the command post.
14. A PAR will be answered with the company designation and the number of personnel.
15. The appropriate technical rescue team(s) will be requested early into the technical rescue incident.
16. If the incident occurs out of town, fill-in companies will be considered for the duration of the event.

**Rope Rescue:**

1. Primary response for high angle rescue incidents will be assigned to Coppell Fire Department personnel. Additional technical expertise and personnel may be requested utilizing the Dallas County mutual aid system.
2. All rescues using ropes will be made with Life Safety ropes only.
3. All rigging will be double checked by the designated riggers before the Life Safety is used to support weight.
4. All rigging will utilize a second belay line for safety purposes.
5. All rigging will utilize knots and hitches acceptable for rescue.
6. All anchors must be “bomb-proof” in design. All anchors have to be agreed upon by the personnel rigging the ropes and the Safety Officer.
7. Rope protectors will be used on all edges that the rope contacts.

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## COMMAND TACTICAL WORKSHEET ROPE RESCUE

- **Primary Assessment**  
 Secure witness or RP  
 Determine location, number and condition of victim(s)  
 Rescue/recovery mode
  
- **Secondary Assessment**  
 Type of environment  
 Hazards to rescuers  
 Assess need for additional personnel  
 Assess need for additional equipment
  
- **Sectorize**  
 Operations (technical)  
 Safety  
 Extrication (Technical Rescue)  
 EMS (treatment, transport)
  
- **PIO**  
 Police Liaison
  
- **Rescue Operations**  
 Make general area safe (traffic control, etc.)  
 Make rescue area safe (crowd control hazards)  
 Insertion technique (climb, long line)  
 Evacuation technique (long line, raise, lower)  
 Personal protective equipment  
 Victim removal equipment  
 Transfer to MICU
  
- **Termination**  
 PAR (personnel accountability)  
 Removal of equipment  
 CISD

## **ROPE CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

**Purpose:** To provide direction for personnel in regards to rope utilized for rescue operations

**Scope:** This policy applies to all members of the Operations Division

### **Directions:**

1. Rope found within the Coppell Fire Department will be classified as Life Safety Rope or Utility Rope.
2. Life Safety Rope must be thoroughly inspected monthly, after each incident in which it was used, or any time the rope may have been exposed to damage.
3. A thorough inspection includes both a visual and tactile inspection of the rope.
4. A "Yes" on any of the Post-Incident or Damage Assessment questions will be grounds for removing the rope from service.
5. Each inspection will be documented on the Rope Inspection Log attached to this SOG.
6. Any discrepancy that places the rope out of service will be noted and the item immediately removed from service and replaced with an item from the reserve stock.  
  
This rope must undergo the very same inspection prior to being placed in service. Any rope removed from service will be noted on a Work Order and forwarded to Fire Administration for follow-up.
7. All Rope Inspection Logs will be forwarded to Fire Administration for record keeping.
8. The care and maintenance of all rope is essential to the extended life of the equipment.
9. All care and maintenance of the ropes must be carried out with regards to the manufacturer's recommendations.
10. Rope Cleaning should follow these guidelines:
  - a) Mix water and the Life Safety Rope Cleaner according to manufacturer's recommendations in an approved container.
  - b) Submerge the rope in the container and allow to soak for 20 minutes, vigorously agitating every 5 minutes.
  - c) The rope should then be removed and processed through a Bokat™ or other commercial rope washer a minimum of 3 times.
  - d) The rope will be placed in a clean area to hang dry, free of dirt, the elements or direct sunlight.

