**12.07.00 TECHNICAL RESCUE OPERATIONS**

**1.0 REFERENCE**

WAC 296-305-05113

**2.0 POLICY**

**2.1** It shall be the policy of the Department to only respond to technical rescue operations at the level of training per responding crew. Members will not operate at a level that exceeds their level of training.

**2.2** **Awareness Level:**   
This represents the minimum capability of organizations that provide response to technical rescue incidents or discover technical rescue situations during emergency scene operations and takes no offensive action. This level requires no additional written procedures.

**2.3** **Operations Level:**  
This level represents the capability of organizations to respond to technical rescue incidents and to identify hazards, use equipment, and apply limited techniques specified in this rule to support and participate in technical rescue incidents.

**2.4** **Technician Level:**  
This level represents the capability of organizations to respond to technical rescue incidents, to identify hazards, use equipment, and apply advanced techniques specified in this rule necessary to coordinate, perform, and supervise technical rescue incidents.

**2.5** Basic life support shall be provided by the fire department at technical rescue incidents.

**2.4** Our department must meet all requirements of WAC 296-305-05113, along with all relevant requirements in the specific technical rescue sections, before operating at the operations or technician level at a technical rescue incident.

**2.7** For Operations above the awareness level for technical rescue incidents our Department shall establish written standard operating procedures outlining the operational level of our specific level of response and the type of technical rescue operations they plan to perform. These programs shall have all training and responses documented and be evaluated annually for compliance by the Health and Safety Officer.

**2.8** The 2008 edition of NFPA 1006, Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications outlines the minimum individual Job Performance Requirements for Level I (Operations) and Level II (Technician) rescuers shall serve as the Standards for Response for the department.

**2.9** Equipment necessary for operations at technical rescue incidents, along with training exercises, shall be provided by the fire department.

**2.10** Training shall be provided in the care, use, inspection, maintenance and limitations of the protective clothing and equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.

**2.11** Our Department will provide, at no cost to members, protective clothing and equipment to provide protection from the specific hazards to which they could be exposed.

**2.12** Members are required to wear the protective clothing and equipment provided by the Department's procedures and guidelines for Technical Rescue.

**2.13** Where our Department does not have a Technical Rescue team assigned, and we are dispatched to an emergency requiring technical rescue, we shall request mutual aid from dispatch for the closest technical rescue team available. The Officer in charge will determine, what if any, basic life support care can be provided while awaiting a Technical Rescue team.

**3.0 DEFINITIONS**

**3.1** The department shall use the following technical rescue standards and definitions based on the cited NFPA and WAC standards. Each NFPA standard specifies the minimum technicians needed to perform rescues, minimum annual scenario based training, training documentation and specific equipment required to respond to these emergencies.

**3.2** Structural collapse. Chapter 5 of the 2009 edition of NFPA 1670,

**3.3** Rope rescue. Chapter 6 of the 2009 edition of NFPA 1670, WAC 296-305-02019

**3.4** Confined space rescue. Chapter 7 of the 2009 edition of NFPA 1670, WAC 296-809 Table 1

**3.5** Machinery rescue. Chapter 12 of the 2009 edition of NFPA 1670

**3.6** Water rescue. Chapter 9 of the 2009 edition of NFPA 1670

**3.7** Dive rescue. Chapter 9 of the 2009 edition of NFPA 1670, WAC 296-37 WAC

**3.8** Trench and excavation rescue. Chapter 11 of the 2009 edition of NFPA 1670,

**3.9** Mine and tunnel rescue. Chapter 14 of the 2009 edition of NFPA 1670, WAC 296-155 Part Q

**3.10** Aircraft rescue and firefighting. 2008 edition of NFPA 402, Guide for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Operations, WAC 296-305-05013.

**4.0 RESPONSIBILITY**

**4.1** Each member of a technical rescue team shall be trained, as a minimum, to the VARIABLE Level.

4.2 The Safety Officer shall be trained to VARIABLE level for all department authorized technical response disciplines.

**5.0 PROCEDURES FOR ANY TECHNICAL RESCUE RESPONSE**

**5.1** Departments shall use an ICS at all technical rescue incidents and training exercises.

**5.2** The incident commander shall assign an incident safety officer with the requisite knowledge and responsibility for the identification, evaluation, and with the authority to correct hazardous conditions and unsafe practices, at all emergency scene operations and training exercises.

**5.3** All employees must be briefed on the hazards and risks associated with department's chosen level of technical rescue response at the scene.

**5.4** Employees assigned specific duties and functions must be trained and qualified by their department prior to being assigned those duties or functions.

**5.5** When employees are operating in positions or performing functions that pose a high potential risk for injury, employees qualified in basic life support must be standing by.

**5.6** The Safety Officer shall establish a procedure for members to abandon the technical rescue area and to account for their safety when an imminent hazard condition is discovered. This shall include a method for notifying all members in the affected area immediately.

**6.0 ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

**7.0 APPENDIX**