



Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center

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9-1-1 FIRE
POLICE
MEDICAL



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COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS FIRE SERVICE POLICY

Policy No. 5780	Date Issued: June 1, 1996
Section: 5700 – Specific Procedures	Date Revised: May 8, 2006
Accreditation Standards: None	

SUBJECT: RESCUES

APPROVED:



Chairperson, Fire Service Users Subcommittee

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1.0 Policy

1.1 A rescue is when a person's life or limb may be endangered if s/he is not promptly extricated from the scene or conditions.

2.0 Procedure

2.1 If injuries are known or suspected, handle the incident as a medical emergency via the EMD program

2.1.1 If not handled as a medical emergency, initiate ambulance response at the request of the fire agency.

2.2 Do not include extrication from vehicles or airplanes involved in accidents.

3.0 Cliff/Ocean Cliff Rescue

3.1 A cliff/ocean cliff rescue is any cliff rescue, coastal or inland. Always initiate an associated ambulance response for any cliff rescue, even when injuries are not confirmed.

4.0 Ocean Water Rescues

4.1 A water rescue incident is initiated any time a vessel indicates distress inside the surf line or any person indicates distress regardless of his/her distance from shore.

4.2 A **confirmed water rescue** is one in which the reporting party (RP) is able to confirm a rescue is needed.

4.3 An **unconfirmed water rescue** is one in which the RP is unable to confirm a rescue is needed (i.e., a second or third hand report).

4.4 Dispatch water rescues according to CAD recommendations which include the Coastal Incident Response Plan (CIRP).

4.5 Always initiate an associated ambulance response for any confirmed water rescue, even when injuries are not confirmed, and assign CalCord as the incident tactical frequency during the initial dispatch.

5.0 Inland Bodies of Water

5.1 A rescue from an inland body of water generates a different response than an ocean water rescue.

5.2 Use the incident type code for a rescue when creating a rescue incident from an inland body of water.

6.0 Open Ocean Distress

6.1 An open ocean distress incident is initiated any time a vessel indicates a distress outside of the surf line.

6.2 Transfer RP's of open ocean distress incidents immediately to the Coast Guard.

6.3 Dispatch and notify fire agencies as recommended by CAD.

7.0 Swift Water Rescue

7.1 A swift water rescue is a rescue from a moving body of water (like a river or creek) with a dynamic water flow.

7.1.1 Typical swift water rescue incidents are reports of a person floating or a vehicle trapped in a creek or river.

7.2 Use the incident type code specific to swift water rescue when creating the incident.

8.0 Other Specialized Rescues

8.1 The fire service has developed specialized training and tools for use during specialized rescue situations.

8.1.1 The brief descriptions below are provided to give the dispatcher an idea of what information is useful to firefighters when responding to a specialized rescue.

8.2 Except as noted, use the rescue incident type for specialized rescues and provide specialized rescue information to responding units.

8.3 Responding units may identify a rescue as a specialized rescue and request a specific response upgrade, if necessary.

9.0 Confined Space Rescue

9.1 Person(s) needing rescue are in a space that limits entry and exit of people. They may be in a hole, water tank, cave, pipe, vault, storm drain, etc.

10.0 Trench Rescue

10.1 Person(s) normally at an excavation site and may be entrapped in a trench, hole, or collapsed embankment.

11.0 Heavy Rescue

11.1 Rescue involving either a building collapse or accidents involving larger vehicles, such as tractors and semi-trucks.

12.0 High Angle Rescue

12.1 Rescue involving removing person(s) from areas above ground beyond the reach of ladders. This may be a cliff, water tank, building, utility tower, tree or any situation needing climbers and rope techniques to effect a rescue. If a caller is reporting a cliff rescue, use the cliff/ocean cliff rescue incident type.

13.0 Horse Rescue

13.1 The Felton Fire Protection District has a specialized Horse Rescue Unit for trapped horses. If a caller is reporting a horse rescue, use the animal rescue incident type (ANIRES) which will recommend a fire unit from the jurisdiction of the incident. It will be the Incident Commander's decision to request the Felton Fire Protection District Horse Rescue Unit