



**COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS
FIRE SERVICE POLICY**

Policy No. 5780	Date Issued: June 1, 1996
Section: 5700 – Specific Procedures	Date Revised: February 13, 2023
Accreditation Standards: None	
SUBJECT: RESCUES	
APPROVED: <signed copy on file>	_____
	Chairperson, Fire Service Users Subcommittee
APPROVED: <signed copy on file>	_____
	Amethyst Uchida, General Manager

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 Airplane or vehicle accidents which require extraction should be handled according to Policy 5770- Vehicle and Bicycle Accidents and 5820 – Aircraft Incidents.

3.0 Cliff/Ocean Cliff Rescue

- 3.1 A cliff/ocean cliff rescue is any cliff rescue, coastal or inland. Use the incident type RESCUE with a modifying circumstance of CLIFF.

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. Use the incident type RESCUE with modifying circumstance of WATCON.
- 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). Use the incident type RESCUE with modifying circumstance of WATUNC.
- 4.4 Dispatch water rescues according to CAD recommendations which include the Coastal Incident Response Plan (CIRP).
- 4.5 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 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 callers of open ocean distress incidents immediately to the Coast Guard.
- 6.3 Create an incident using the Incident Type RESCUE with a modifying circumstance of OPEN.
- 6.4 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 RESCUE with a modifying circumstance of SWIFT 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.

8.2 Some of these rescue types may be identified by fire service personnel as confined space rescue, trench rescue, heavy rescue, or high angle rescue. Responding units may identify a rescue as a specialized rescue and request a specific response upgrade, if necessary.

9.0 Special Rescue Definitions

9.1 **Confined Space Rescue** - 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. Use RESCUE with a modifying circumstance of SPACE

9.2 **Trench Rescue** - Person(s) normally at an excavation site and may be entrapped in a trench, hole, or collapsed embankment. Use the incident type RESCUE and provide specialized rescue information to responders.

9.3 **Heavy Rescue** - Rescue involving either a building collapse or accidents involving larger vehicles, such as tractors and semi-trucks. Use the incident type RESCUE and provide specialized rescue information to responders.

9.4 **High Angle Rescue** - Rescue involving removing person(s) from areas above ground beyond the reach of ladders. This may be a, water tank, building, utility tower, tree or any situation needing climbers and rope techniques to affect a rescue. If a caller is reporting a cliff rescue, use the cliff/ocean cliff rescue incident type. Use the incident type RESCUE and provide specialized rescue information to responders.

10.0 Horse Rescue

10.1 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 RESCUE with modifying circumstance of ANIMAL which will recommend a “required” fire unit from the jurisdiction of the incident as well as an optional unit from Felton Fire. It will be the Incident Commander’s decision to request the Felton Fire Protection District Horse Rescue Unit.

- 10.2 Once confirmed by the IC that Felton Fire Animal Recuse is needed, dispatchers will request recommendations in CAD for the incident and assign the suggested Felton Fire Unit.