

Standard Operating Guidelines

Guideline 606.0 Rope Rescue



Purpose:

The purpose of this Standard Operating Guideline is to provide general guidance for rope rescue operations; both high angle and low angle. Safety, judgment, experience, training, and coordination are a necessity during rope rescue operations. Incidents that require rope rescue are inherently dangerous. Non-skilled individuals will only provide support to trained personnel.

Guideline:

DEFINITIONS:

1. High Angle Rope Rescue – any situation where rope rescue operations are to be performed in an environment in which the load is predominately supported by the rope rescue system.
2. Low Angle Rope Rescue – any situation where rope rescue operations are to be performed in an environment in which the load is predominately supported by itself and not by the rope rescue system (i.e. low or moderate sloping surface).

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

This guideline is only meant to be a starting point in which the situation is to be handled. No rescue involving the use of ropes will be the same. Every rescue will vary to a certain degree. However, every situation must be accomplished in the safest and most efficient way possible for the patient(s) and rescuers involved.

INITIAL OPERATIONS:

The first arriving officer will establish Incident Command in order to properly maintain control of the incident. This officer, or his designee, needs to gather as much of the following information as possible:

1. Where is the victim located?
2. How is the victim supported or suspended?
3. How long has the victim been in their current position?
4. Is the victim injured?
5. Is this a rescue or a recovery?
6. Are there any potential hazards to rescuers?
7. Is there any ongoing rescue attempt by untrained personnel?
8. Can the victim be safely reached by any other method (i.e. ground ladders or Aerial device)?

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If it is determined that a rope rescue is necessary, all untrained and non essential personnel will be removed from the immediate area for their safety and the safety of the rescuers involved.

Special Notes:

1. If it is determined that this is a recovery contact the County Coroner for any special instructions.
2. The term FREEZE will be utilized to cause personnel to stop, in place, any activities they are doing. The term FREEZE will only be utilized when personnel are in imminent danger. All personnel will stop what they are doing, in place, without turning or moving. The person calling FREEZE will contact the Incident Commander and will take actions to correct the hazard. Once the Incident Commander deems the hazard corrected, rescue operations can commence.
3. In accordance with The City of Bryan Fire Department Rescue Rope Care Policy, all pieces of equipment used in rope rescue operations must be maintained and cared for. Any piece of equipment that is dropped or found to have a defect must be placed out of service until further inspection can be done. Ropes and webbing must not be stepped on or placed in areas where they would cause a trip hazard.