

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>WATER AND ICE RESCUE INCIDENTS</b>
<b>Section:</b>	<b>PPG# 4400.18</b>
<b>Chapter:</b>	<b>Operations</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>7/1/98</b>

## 1.0 POLICY

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- 1.1 McLane Black Lake Fire Department shall perform water and ice rescue at the Operations Level.
- 1.2 Members of McLane Black Lake Fire Department shall perform water or ice rescue operations commensurate with their level of training.
- 1.3 It is not the policy of Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 to issue opinions regarding the safety of swimming, or skating on ice on lakes and ponds.

## 2.0 DEFINITIONS

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- 2.1 **Static Water:** Water that is essentially not moving, such as ponds, lakes and retention basins. It may include tidal water during slack tide.
- 2.2 **Swift Water:** Water moving at a rate greater than one knot – this includes rivers and flood areas.
- 2.3 **Watercraft:** Boats and jet skis.

## 3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

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- 3.1 Supervisors shall insure use of Personal Protective Equipment and that members limit their participation and actions to their level of training.

## **4.0 GUIDELINES**

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### **4.1 A. Safety**

1. Personnel Flotation devices shall be worn whenever:
  - a. Members are working on, over or along water where the chance of drowning exists.
  - b. Members riding in, on /or driving any watercraft.
  - c. Serving as a line tender with a SCUBA diver.
2. Water helmets shall be worn:
  - a. By members operating in the hot zone of an ice rescue.
  - b. By members operating in the hot zone of a swift water operation.
  - c. When directed by a supervisor.
3. Dry suits, ice rescue suits and similar should be considered based upon environmental conditions and anticipated length of exposure.

### **4.2 B. The first arriving Officer shall:**

1. Perform a verbal size up, to include at a minimum:
  - a. Determining the conditions/needs of the rescue – static water, surf or swift water
  - b. Assessment of number of victims, locations and injuries, including “point last seen”.
2. Establish command and announce operations strategy (ie: investigation, rescue, recovery)
3. Initiate appropriate actions if properly trained and equipped members are available, and/or request resources as needed. Mutual aid resources include:
  - a. Rescue Swimmers from Lacey Fire District 3.
  - b. Divers from Thurston County Sheriff Office (TCSO) Dive Team.
  - c. Swift water Technicians from Lacey Fire District 3 and TCSO Dive Team.

4. Establish incident zones; only essential and necessary personnel should be allowed in the hot zone.

**4.3** C. Actions that may be conducted by Operations level personnel include:

1. Initiation of shore-based rescue operations, such as throw bags and reach tools.
2. Assist Technician and Specialist level responders including entry into static water. Operation of Boat 95 if properly trained and authorized.
3. Serve as a deck hand or in-boat rescuer for boat-based operations.

**4.4** D. Marine Unit Operations

1. Boat 95 will respond to emergency incidents on inland lakes.
2. Boat 95 will respond to life-threatening emergencies in Puget Sound where additional resources are requested by the authority having jurisdiction and in those situations where other marine emergency response organizations are unavailable to respond.
3. Boat 95 will respond with a minimum of a two (2) person crew consisting of a Boat Operator and a trained deck hand.
4. Non emergency calls will be referred to the TCSO, Harbor Patrol or the Coast Guard. If unavailable, the shift Captain or acting Captain may authorize a district response on a case-by-case basis.