

HIGH RISK/LOW FREQUENCY

HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

GUIDELINE NO: 300.34

SUBJECT: High Angle Rope Rescue

APPROVAL: Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

Effective Date: 5-16-16

Revised Date: n/a

PURPOSE

This guideline provides actions when responding to High Angle Rope Rescue.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. All Chief and Company Officers have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All firefighters have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

GUIDELINE

- A. High Angle Rope Rescue is defined as any slope, grade or change in elevation that is too steep to access or remove patient without the use of technical rescue equipment.
- B. Tactical Considerations
 1. Arrive on Scene, Take Command, Size Up
 - a. The first arriving Company Officer should assume Command after arriving on scene
 - b. Command should secure witnesses as soon as possible after arriving on scene to help identify the problem and locate the victim
 - c. Locate the Victim
 1. Command should send a reconnaissance team to the area to make contact with the victim as quickly as possible.
 2. Reconnaissance team members should be trained to Emergency Medical Responder Level or higher and carry first responder bags
 3. Reconnaissance team may need technical rope system to gain direct access to victim
 - d. Assess the need for additional Resources.
 1. Request mutual aid if necessary
 2. Put in early call for mutual aid if possible in consideration of drive time for mutual aid departments with High Angle Rope Rescue teams
 - e. Command should designate a Safety Officer
 1. Safety officer will identify all potential hazards for rescuers
 2. Safety officer will be responsible for overall safety of rigging and rescue operation
 - f. Command will decide on an action plan. Rescue members and Safety Officer shall be made aware of the specific action plan.
 - g. Depending on the incident the following areas must be fill to complete a high angle rope rescue.

1. Rescue team
 - a. Rescue team members will make direct contact with victims and provide first aid
 - b. Rescue team members must be trained to the High Angle Rope Rescue Technician Level and be Emergency Medical Responder or higher
 2. Rigging team
 - a. Rigging team members should be trained to the High Angle Rope Rescue Technician Level
 - b. If needed Rigging team members can be trained to the High Angle Rope Rescue Operations Level but must be directly supervised by team members trained at the Technician Level
 3. Haul Team
 - a. Haul team members can be any member of the fire department but must be directly supervised by team members trained at the Technician Level
2. Pre Rescue Operations
- a. Rescue area should be secured and civilians entering the area should be controlled
 - b. Non-essential rescue personnel should be removed from area and any hazards should be clearly identified. All personnel operating in rescue area should be made aware of any potential hazards
 - c. Rescue team and Rigging Teams will be responsible for staging all necessary equipment to perform rescue
3. Rescue Operations
- a. Rescue operations should be conducted from low risk to high risk as follows
 1. Talk victim into self-rescue
 2. Identify lowest angle of access
 - a. If terrain is less than 40 degrees inclination responders and/or victims may not require Technical Rope Rescue
 3. Technical Rope Rescue
 - a. If terrain is greater than 40 degrees inclination and victim is unable to self-rescue technical rope rigging will be required
 - b. Rescuers and victims will utilize a haul line and a secondary belay line.
 1. Belay lines will be a tandem prussic belay system
 2. Belay lines and belay anchors will be independent from haul lines and haul systems except when utilizing Arizona vortex as a change of direction to gain a high point
 3. Haul line rigging system will be determined by rigging team

C. Equipment

1. All department members trained to the High Angle Rope Rescue Operations Level will be issued the following equipment
 - a. Helmet
 - b. Head Lamp
 - c. Rope Rescue Gloves
 - d. Type III Harness
 - e. (2) Prussic
 - f. General Use Carabiner
2. Rescue Rope shall be located on 3169 and not used for any training
3. Training Rope shall be located in back storage room
4. Each rope shall have a rope log to record all use and inspections