

**SOUTHERN STONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

Subject: Special Operations – ROPE RESCUE OPERATIONS

Effective Date: 7-1-2002

S.O.G.# 19.2

Revision Date:

Applies To: All Personnel

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Purpose:

This Standard Operating Guideline has been established to identify the Technical Rescue Team to provide the basic practices for all Technical Rescue Team members and describes how staffing, training, response and operations of the team is to be managed. This guideline is consistent with the tactics, strategy and philosophy of the Southern Stone County Fire Protection District. These guidelines are not all-inclusive and may need to be deviated from by the Incident Commander, unit officers or other personnel as the situation dictates.

This SOG recommends standard operations for both the Special Operations Team and all other responding personnel. At no time during an incident or training are any personnel to perform out of their scope of training. This is to endure the most safe and efficient scene as possible. All practices and lesson plans shall be only those approved by the Special Operations Team Leader and the Fire Chief. All training and practices will comply with FEMA guidelines, OSHA guidelines, NFPA Standards, specifically NFPA 1983 and 1670 pertaining to Rope Rescue Operations or Training for Technical Rescue Incidents and the Standard Operating Guidelines of the Southern Stone County Fire Protection District.

Safety

Safety must be strictly practiced during incidents and trainings for all members involved as well as the victims.

1. The Incident Commander (during an incident), or the lead instructor (during training), shall assign a safety officer with the specific knowledge for the responsibility for the identification, the evaluation, and, when possible, the correction of hazardous conditions and unsafe practices. This assignment should meet the requirements in Chapter 4 of NFPA 1521. The safety officer should be readily identifiable.
2. The Incident Commander (during and operation) or the lead instructor (during training evolutions) shall insure that all personnel are aware of the potential impact of their operations on the safety and welfare of other rescuers, victims and other activities at the incident or training site.
3. The minimum acceptable approved protective clothing must include approved include helmet and gloves.
4. Helmet should be firefighter or special rescue type or approved hardhat.
5. Gloves shall be made of leather or rope rescue gloves used only for rope rescue.
6. Any personnel working at or near an edge, of any height, must be anchored off.

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7. Only equipment approved by the Team Leader or the Fire Chief may be used.
8. When rappelling, a safety line shall be used for the rescuer and victim whenever possible.
9. All equipment must be inspected after each use.
10. Only the assigned and / or appropriate rope shall be used during training and / or emergency incidents.

Levels of Response

Awareness Level functions shall include the following:

1. Size-up of existing and potential conditions where rope rescue operations will be performed.
2. Identification of the resources necessary to conduct safe and effective rope rescue operations.
3. Development and implementation of procedures for carrying out the emergency response system where a rescue is required.
4. Development and implementation of procedures for carrying out site control and scene management.
5. Recognition of general hazards associated with rope rescue and the procedures necessary to mitigate these hazards within the general rescue area.
6. Development and implementation of procedures for the identification and utilization of personal protective equipment assigned for use at a rope rescue incident.

Operations level functions shall include the following:

Members operating at the operation level should meet all requirements specified under the Awareness level as well as the following:

1. Procedures for the selection, construction and use of rope based mechanical advantage systems.
2. Procedures for establishing the need, selecting the proper equipment and placing edge protection.
3. Procedures for the safe construction and use of single point and multipoint anchor systems within the scope of SSCFPD's training.
4. Procedures for safe selection, construction and use of proper belay systems.
5. Procedures for selection, construction and use of a lowering system within the scope of SSCFPD's training.
6. Procedures for properly tying any knot used by SSCFPD's Special Operations Team.
7. Procedures for assuring safety in rope rescue operations.
8. Procedures for appropriately packaging a patient in a stokes basket.

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9. Procedures for the selection, use and maintenance of proper rope rescue systems.
10. Procedures for selection, construction and use of a raising system in the low angle environment.
11. Procedures for safely ascending and descending a fixed rope within the scope of the SSCFPD's training.
12. Procedures for using litter attendants in the low angle environment.

Technician level functions shall include the following:

Members operating at the Technician Level should meet all the requirements specified under the Awareness and Operations level as well as the following:

1. Procedures for the safe construction and use of ladder distributing systems.
2. Procedures for the selection, construction and use of high line rope systems within the scope of the SSCFPD's training.
3. Procedures for the selection, construction and use of a rope based raising system in a high angle environment within the scope of the SSCFPD's training.
4. Procedures for passing knots through a rope rescue system.
5. Procedures for using litter attendants in the high angle environment.