

# **Cedarville Township Volunteer Fire Department**

## **Special Response Standard Operating Guideline**

### **2024**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this SOG is to clarify what the available resources are and when to request them when fire crews meet "Technical Rescue" situations. Additionally, to create criteria as to when to escalate a situation: during a fire an officer may strike a "second " alarm (third, and so on), however there is no system built into dispatch to do so for a technical event. Finally, to establish a safe scene, including explanation of required PPE and certification necessary to respond to such events.

#### **Responsibilities**

It is the Fire Officer's responsibility to know this SOG and, when necessary, apply it during a technical/special rescue event.

It is the Firefighter's responsibility to review this SOG and understand what PPE is necessary.

#### **General Response**

Cedarville Township Volunteer Fire Department resides in Homeland Security Region 3, and therefore has access to multiple local resources including but not limited to, Region 3 Strike Team (Special Rescue Team), Dayton Regional Hazmat (Hazmat Team), Greene County Sheriff's Office (K-9 & Manpower), Dayton MMRS/RDC (RTF, WMD Caches, etc.), and local GCFC Mutual Aid Agreements. All resources are contacted through the Greene Central Communications Center. This SOG will outline the appropriate uses for each individual entity.

#### **Explanation**

Currently CTVFD has various members trained to various specialized disciplines, however these members are not always on-duty or available for a response. Because of this, the most trained member/officer on the call may not even be certified to perform a rescue or operation. Even so, they should be able to recognize when a team or additional resource is needed.

All members and officers are responsible for crew and citizen safety and wellbeing, as well as protecting and stabilizing an incident. In some instances, this may involve making a go-rescue, in others it may involve waiting for the appropriate resources to arrive. Overall, the discretion of the OIC and Technicians involved will determine what happens at each individual incident.

#### **Guidelines**

##### **Response/Command**

Interpretation of the criticality of a call begins at the dispatch. The most senior officer or member should establish command. Crews should request the next available command officer if a Cedarville Township senior officer is not available.

Tactics should be planned while en-route, based on dispatch notes and known environmental factors (it is better to activate a local Rescue Team, R3ST or Careflight and not need them, than need them and have to wait 20-45 minutes for a team to be put together).

When deploying special rescue teams, take into account the following: survivability (rescue vs recovery), quantity/quality of incoming resources (rescue team vs fire department), incident personnel staging (where are you placing all of your resources), and resource shuttling (once the resources get to the staging location how are you getting them to where they need to be).

## **Lost Person/Large Area Search**

### Introduction

Typically fire units are second-responders for large-area searches, with the Sheriff's Office already dispatched on the call. Ladder 11 and Engine 11 have both been requested to provide Aerial and Thermal support for Law Enforcement crews.

### PPE

Consider carrying spotlights and/or flashlights. Any ground personnel should don high-visibility safety vests.

### Resources

Depending on the length of the incident, the officer may choose to request additional fire crews. If not already completed, consider a UAV in flat farm areas as a UAV can cover more ground in a faster time than on foot or via brush truck. Xenia Fire (UAV31) and Xenia Police have UAVs and pilots. Additionally, consider requesting ATV 41, 31, or 51 (31 and 51 can transport a supine patient). The Region 3 Strike Team's search force includes ATVs/UTVs and K9s.

### Considerations

In the case of a missing person, the best tactical advantage is a plan prior to operations deployment. Sending manpower out and searching an area in an unorganized fashion is the fastest way to create chaos and lose accountability.

## **HAZMAT**

### Introduction

Structural firefighting gear, which includes full turnouts with an SCBA, is rated for *any* HAZ-MAT incident for no longer than 15 minutes. The *only* time personnel could enter a pre-determined IDLH environment containing (identified or unidentified) hazardous materials should be for rescuing a viable/known life threat, at the discretion of the OIC. This is performed in the first arriving fire apparatus officer's life-safety assessment. Any victim or personnel exposed to any type of chemical should be decontaminated prior to exiting the warm zone.

### PPE

Basic medical PPE is appropriate for decontaminated victims.

### Resources

All HAZMAT requests will go through Dayton Regional Hazmat. Contact Greene Central Communications to have Director Gary Rettig contact you. If Gary is not available, ask to be contacted by the captain at DFD station 11.

### Considerations

Aside from decon and isolation, members should not engage in any form of HAZMAT Technician skill/Offensive HAZMAT labor. This includes entering the hot zone: the area of contamination. Crews should try to identify what the hazard is from a safe distance away, refer to the Emergency Response Guide (ERG), and isolate as directed. Additionally, if patients are able to remove themselves from the scene, members may decontaminate as noted in the ERG *or* with copious amounts of water, as long as the appropriate PPE is donned. For victim decontamination, consider utilizing the side discharges with nozzles of fire apparatus. Consideration of water runoff should be given to avoid waterways and storm drains. Consult with the Ohio EPA and local EMA as necessary. Haz-mat team members will utilize a separate decon area established by team members.

## **Ice**

### Introduction

Cedarville Township has multiple retention ponds, private ponds, and streams. Additionally, the Village of Cedarville has multiple target hazards including Cedarville University, Massie Creek, and the Indian Mounds Park. The majority of these bodies of water may freeze at any given time throughout the winter months. It is imperative that members *do not* enter on top of the ice, and wait for additional resources. Members may utilize throw-bags in an attempt for a rescue. If the situation presents itself, remember the order for methods to rescue: reach, throw and go. Planning and pre-incident size up, including scene access, are critical prior to arriving on scene.

### PPE

Shore team members should don PFDs at a minimum. Any personnel entering the hot zone should don ice rescue suits.

### Resources

Being proactive in activating an Ice Rescue Team is imperative. Local departments have Ice Rescue Equipment Caches they can bring, and most departments require members to be certified in this discipline. These departments include: New Jasper Township Fire Department, Miami Township Fire Rescue, Xenia Township Fire Department, Fairborn Fire Department. Be sure to request more than one team to have redundancy.

### Considerations

Remember, when there's one victim, prepare for another; consider multiple patients who may have already succumbed to the frigid waters. Ask repeat questions from the shore: "how many there are you," "who was all with you," "how did you get where you are," as the victim may not be thinking clearly during these events so repeat questions can help paint a better picture. Additionally, crews should treat a pet rescue like a victim rescue: pet owners are known to enter

ice and icy waters in attempts to rescue their animals and thus become another patient. *The goal for ice rescue is to move fast, methodically, and without creating additional patients.* If more than one victim is present, or there are many bystanders attempting to aid in rescue, utilize the intercom/PA on the trucks (“Everyone on the ice leave the ice now. Do not re-enter the ice.”). Finally, Personnel shall not enter moving water—even with ice rescue suits donned.

## **Grain Bin/Confined Space**

### Introduction

Cedarville Township is a rural township with multiple farms and other potential confined space including grain bins, sewer systems, and manure pools. Confined Space or Grain bin rescues, though rare, may occur, and rapid deployment of the appropriate resources is critical for life-saving interventions. A confined space is any area with limited egress for rescue crews and may be as simple as a below-grade sewer system or as complex as a grain bin. One of the hazards to any of these rescues is depletion or replacement of oxygen due to other gasses present.

### PPE

All members in or near the hot zone should don a harness. Air monitoring should be obtained and recorded throughout the incident, with preference on active (rather than ambient) air monitoring systems. If air monitoring systems are unavailable, consideration for rescue versus recovery and attainable life-saving measures should be taken into account. SCBAs may be used as an alternative to other confined space equipment in an immediate go-rescue. Ventilation using natural and PPV fans, electric or battery if available, should be considered.

### Resources

Madison Township Fire & EMS, Silvercreek Township Fire Department, Miami Township Fire Rescue, New Jasper Fire Department, and Spring Valley Township Fire Department are a few of the local departments that have Grain Bin Rescue tubes. The closest confined space rescue team is Wright Patt Air Force Base, with Miami Township and Beavercreek Township having minor equipment available.

### Considerations

For Grain bin rescues, utilize milk crate and backboards for movement on the grain bin: Additionally, consider requesting a grain rescue auger or vacuum truck to move grain faster. Limit the number of rescuers in a confined space. Communicate with command on location of entry team and maintain accountability.

## **Rope/High Angle/Cell Tower**

### Introduction

Ladder 11 has rope rescue equipment in its compartments to begin setting up for a rope rescue incident. There are three levels of certification for Rope Rescue: Awareness, Operations, and Technician. NFPA Rope Technician 1 is considered NFPA Rope Operations. Rope operators can assist in securing anchor points, rope systems, and the like, however these systems should be inspected by a life-safety officer who is a Rope Technician.

### PPE

Any/ all members on the response in the hot zone should don a harness. Additionally, all members in the warm zone, hot zone, or near anchor points should don rescue helmets. Consideration can be given for officers or auxiliary personnel on the response who are not directly involved in rigging or rescue to don high-visibility safety vests.

### Resources

The two closest Rope Rescue teams are Xenia Fire Division and Miami Township Fire Rescue. Both of these teams are not guaranteed to have Rope Technicians on staff 24/7, however will attempt to complete a call back for such personnel. Local fire-based teams which have 24/7 rescue personnel include Fairborn Fire Department, Beavercreek Township Fire Department, and Springfield Fire Division. Larger incidents consider contacting Region 3 Strike Team for personnel and equipment.

### Considerations

A ladder truck can be used as a high-point anchor. With a mechanical advantage system and dynamic loads, forces can easily exceed the intended limits on aerial apparatus. Xenia Fire Division, Beavercreek Township Fire Department and Miami Township Fire Rescue have Arizona Vortex (tripods) for vertical rescues.

## **Water**

### Introduction

Cedarville Township has multiple retention ponds, private ponds, and streams. Additionally, the Village of Cedarville has multiple target hazards including Cedarville University, Massie Creek, and the Indian Mound Park. The majority of these bodies of water are noted to be slow-moving (<2 knots), however can increase in velocity and force weather and season dependent. Remember the escalation of rescue as it applies to the skill and strength of the responding units: reach, throw, row, go.

### PPE

Personnel entering the water should be certified to the appropriate level. At no time should untrained personnel be past the shore or considered part of the rescue team other than shore support. PPE includes wet/dry suits or duty uniforms appropriate for the weather and occasion (bunker gear/turnouts are not appropriate gear for rescue). All personnel in the hot zone should don PFDs. Any shore support (untrained personnel at or near the shore) should don a PFD.

## Resources

Local water rescue teams are Xenia Township Fire Department, Spring Valley Township Fire Department, Sugarcreek Township Fire Department, and Mad River Township Fire Department. All have a boat. Xenia Fire Division has personnel trained for swift water rescue; however, this is shift-dependent. Beavercreek Fire Department and Fairborn Fire Department have swift water rescue teams including a boat and rescue swimmers. Wright Patt Air Force Base Fire Department also has a dive team. Other considerations: if a person is underwater, try to mark the last known location. When boats are part of the response, attempt to locate a suitable area for staging / launching.

## **Other**

There are additional types of rescue operations (e.g., trench, collapse, heavy rescue, RTF/SWAT, etc.). This document is to highlight the common technical incidents and the operations from the time of dispatch into the first 10 minutes of an incident. Any large-sized incident should have multiple higher-level certified teams responding.

### Additional Resource Considerations:

- Law Enforcement (Sheriff's Office, Local Police, Greene Co Parks Rangers, and ODNR)
  - ODNR has a boat
  - XPD has a drone
  - XFD has a drone with thermal capability
  - GCSO, BPD, XPD, and FPD have K9 Units available
- Air Medical (Careflight or Medflight)
  - Have been used in the past for large-area searches
- Air Support (UAV or Helicopter [to activate OSP's Helicopter should be requested by OSP Post 29/*not* by Fire Personnel])