

SECTION X — FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE OPERATIONS

10.1 VEHICLE RESCUE OPERATIONS

- 10.1.1 Vehicle rescue operations shall be conducted with patient care as a priority, ensuring no further injury to the patient occurs as a result of extrication work. No extrication work may begin until patient stability is assured, the vehicle has been stabilized, batteries and air bags have been neutralized, and protection from glass and other hazards have been afforded the patient.
- 10.1.2 The incident commander shall assign trained members of the fire department to handle patient care (i.e.: first responder or EMT) as necessary, if the primary EMS provider has not yet arrived, or if requested by the EMS provider.
- 10.1.3 Fire Department personnel assigned to perform rescue operations such as operating hydraulic, pneumatic, or electric power equipment shall wear standard turn out gear including; helmet, coat, pants, boots, rescue gloves, goggles or safety glasses, and other PPE as required by the incident commander. Incident commanders may waive turn out coat requirements under certain conditions if long sleeve nomex shirt is in place.
- 10.1.4 Fire Department personnel shall wear gloves and goggles or safety glasses whenever connecting hose lines, tools, or other parts on hydraulic, pneumatic, or electric power equipment.
- 10.1.5 The incident commander shall assign a trained member of the fire department to directly supervise the extrication process (also known as Rescue Operations Group). The member in charge of the rescue group may, if necessary, be an operator of a hydraulic, pneumatic, or electric rescue tool. The incident commander should NOT normally participate in the rescue group, unless, participation is critical to a rapid, safe termination of the incident.
- 10.1.6 The incident commander shall ensure that no hydraulic, pneumatic, or electric power extrication work begins without a hose line present for fire protection. The incident commander should consider providing a hose line for fire protection if patient care within a vehicle is expected to continue for an extended period without power tool extrication. A multi-purpose fire extinguisher shall be placed readily accessible near any extrication scene with a designated fire fighter.
- 10.1.7 The incident commander shall, when possible, ensure a member of the fire department is assigned to operate power unit dump valves as directed. Additionally, members must ensure hydraulic hoses, connections to tools,

manifold blocks, etc. are secure. At no time shall a dump valve be placed in pressure until all connections have been confirmed secure.

- 10.1.8 The incident commander may assign other divisions, groups, or staff positions as necessary (i.e. EMS support, Fire Operations, LZ, Safety, additional Rescue Operations, etc.).
- 10.1.9 The incident commander shall communicate directly with the EMS provider and the police officer in charge to ensure coordination of emergency scene management.
- 10.1.10 The incident commander shall consider impact of apparatus placement for scene safety and rescue operations, and shall consider impact of apparatus placement upon other agency responsibilities.
- 10.1.11 Incidents occurring on major freeways (ACE, Route 42, etc.) may require special considerations for responding apparatus. The first arriving fire department unit shall assess and communicate apparatus and equipment needs. Subsequent responding fire department units shall consider level 2 staging before committing to the freeway area.
- 10.1.12 No fire department member shall be expected to perform a task for which they have not been trained.
- 10.1.13 The driver of rescue apparatus shall ensure rescue tools are accounted for and made ready for the next assignment including refueling, replacing blades, replacing expendables, etc.
- 10.1.14 The incident commander shall be responsible for completing a written description of the rescue process describing the method of extrication, time extrication completed, tools utilized, emergency medical treatment rendered by the fire department, and any other circumstances that may be applicable to maintaining an accurate record of the incident. The member in charge of the rescue group may provide this documentation.