

# Polson City and Rural FIRE DEPARTMENT Operating Guidelines

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Created on January 7, 2003

Revised: May 11, 2006

Revised by: Chief John Ed Fairchild Sept. 29, 2008

## 340.00 EXTRICATION GUIDELINE

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**Subject:** Vehicle Rescue Incident Management

The following practices and guidelines shall be utilized to command, control, and operate at motor vehicle incidents within the fire department response area.

### 340.01 PURPOSE:

It shall be the intent of this operating guideline that all trapped patients shall be extricated in as efficient, safe, and timely manner as practical according to generally accepted guidelines. It shall be the goal of the fire department to assist in whatever way possible.

### 340.02 RESPONSIBILITY:

The Polson City and Rural Fire Department is the lead agency responsible for fulfilling extrication for the fire department response area and can provide vehicle rescue and medical services to any location as requested through Mutual Aid Plans.

### 340.03 RESPONSE:

All members will wear full protective structural turn-outs or approved Extrication suit when a fire department response to motor vehicle accident incidents.

Fire department response within the fire department response area includes:

Rescue with a minimum operating crew of 3 firefighters. With a minimum of 2 firefighters who are SCBA and Hurst Tool Qualified.

Engine with a minimum operating crew of 3 firefighters SCBA and Hurst Tool Qualified.

Fire department response to Mutual Aid Motor Vehicle Accident outside the fire department response area includes:

Rescue with a minimum operating crew of 3 firefighters with 2 SCBA qualified firefighters and Hurst Tool Qualified. Additional apparatus as requested. Have Lake County Communications Center dispatch the proper fire department for assistants.

**340.04 CREW ASSIGNMENTS:**

The engine company personnel and officer are responsible for safe positioning of the apparatus and control of all existing or potential fire and safety hazards present at the emergency scene.

It shall be a standard policy of the crew of the engine to deploy one portable dry chemical fire extinguisher and establish one fire safety handline with a minimum flow capability of 100 gpm (1-3/4 inch) for each vehicle involved in the incident.

The personnel of the rescue and the engine are responsible for initial stabilization of the damaged vehicles by chocking wheels, disabling electrical systems of damaged vehicles (disconnect or cut negative battery cables) and controlling any other hazards that are present now or may be present through out the duration of the incident.

**340.05 CREW ASSIGNMENTS:**

Members of the Polson City and Rural Fire Department shall be responsible for assisting initial emergency medical care at the level at which they have been trained to the accident victims, and assisting personnel of any assisting EMS Agency as appropriate.

Members will follow the department's established SOP's concerning infectious control program and shall place their accountability tags on the proper apparatus.

The incident commander is responsible for safe and appropriate positioning of each apparatus at the accident scene and that accountability tags of crew are accounted for.

Members when confronted with real or potential multi-casualty incident shall initiate the Mass Casualty Incident Plan (MCI) and function under the MCI Plan as necessary.

**340.06 CREW ASSIGNMENTS: Vehicle Rescue Team**

The vehicle rescue personnel shall assemble in full protective structural turnout gear at a personnel staging area near a designated location per the incident commander. Their responsibilities shall include but not be limited to:

- 1) Placing firefighter accountability tags in the proper place.
- 2) Forming 2 firefighter work teams.
- 3) Contacting command officer to report availability.

- 4) Assisting operator of rescue, engine and ambulance to deploy extrication and medical tools and equipment to the staging area.
- 5) Accomplish all vehicle rescue evolutions necessary to free the trapped patients as assigned.

The Driver/Operator of the Engine and Van Is Also Responsible For:

- 1) Proper positioning of the vehicle.
- 2) Designating the rescue tool and equipment staging area.
- 3) Monitoring department equipment inventory.
- 4) Deployment of electrical service and floodlights as necessary at the incident.
- 5) Monitoring the firefighter accountability system for all department personnel present at the incident scene.

Additional arriving fire department personnel when requested to the scene shall:

- 1) Don full protective gear.
- 2) Turn in their accountability tags to the operator of first Engine on scene.
- 3) Stage in standby status.
- 4) Await vehicle rescue assignments.

**340.07 CREW ASSIGNMENTS: Fire Officers**

The senior fire department officer is responsible for:

- 1) Safety of all operating emergency service personnel.
- 2) Overall scene assessment.
- 3) Establishing command (IC).
- 4) Maintaining communication between operating personnel and agencies present at the scene and the County Fire Control.

The Rescue Officer Is Responsible For:

- 1) Safety of all emergency service personnel within the rescue.
- 2) Fire service-related activities within the extrication.
- 3) Command of all assigned fire department members working under the officer's supervision.
- 4) Determine tactics by coordinating with EMS or gain entry to the most critical patient first.

**340.08 OPERATIONS:**

Department operations shall be in conformance with the steps of the Vehicle Rescue Life Cycle.

Department operations shall consist of primarily 4 basic groupings of evolutions referred to as Rescue Phases.

Rescue Phase "1" activities shall consist of:

- Arrival
- Size up
- Establishing Command
- Scene Stabilization
- Patient Access
- Emergency Medical Care

Rescue crew personnel shall survey the accident scene and check for hazards and the presence of additional injured persons. Rescue personnel shall be responsible for vehicle stabilization, access and disentanglement work necessary to free the trapped occupants.

After initial access has been gained to the injured persons and medical care is underway, Rescue Phase "2", "3" and "4" shall follow. The exact sequence of the performance of the rescue phases shall be at the discretion of the rescue sector officer and the Incident Commander.

Rescue Phase "2" and Phase "3" activities shall consist of disentanglement including:

Partial or Total Roof Removal  
and  
Door (Doors) and Sidewall (Side Post) Removal

**340.08 cont.**

Rescue Phase "4" activities shall consist of:

Dashboard and Firewall Movement

These basic strategy phases shall be followed by patient extrication, transportation, and incident termination.

Any evolutions may be assigned as deemed necessary by the Rescue Officer in cooperation with the Medical Personnel attending to the injured parties and the Incident Commander.