

Rescue Techniques:

Upon receipt of an Ice Rescue call, respond the appropriate apparatus (Department SOG's suggest ambulance, boat, and rescue). Discuss the importance of scene size up and a risk analysis. Consider requesting the District 14 Dive Team immediately in case the victim is or becomes submerged. Determine how many victims and their location. Try to locate any witnesses to confirm the number of possible victims and or the last scene point of the victim(s). All members within 10 feet of the water shall have at a minimum a Personal Floatation Device (PFD). Use the "reach, throw, row, go" techniques:

Reach: if the victim is close to shore and has the capacity to self-rescue, use a pike pole, ladder, inflated section of fire hose (Figure 1), or any other device to reach the victim provided the victim can hold on. Pulling a victim from shore is the safest technique for rescuers.

Throw: If the victim is close to shore and has the capacity to self-rescue, use a throw bag (Figure 2), and attempt to throw to the victim: It may take several tries to reach the victim. Practice the proper techniques for throwing the bag.

Row: The ice rescue boat typically stored on Forestry 1 can be used to access a victim. The boat will be tethered to shore when possible. The rescuers can walk along side of the boat while on top of the ice and ride in the boat when in open water.

Go: If the victim is not close to shore and or is unable to self-rescue, firefighters will have to don the Survival/Ice Commander suit. The rescuer shall be attached to the tether/rescue line at all times. (Figure 3)

Figure 1-inflating a section(s) of fire hose

A length or several lengths of 2 ½ inch fire hose can be inflated and slid out over the ice for the victim to grab. Because the hose is filled with air it will become buoyant and float. Easily one or more victims can be held afloat by a piece of hose. The inflator valve and cap are located in the pump compartment of Rescue 1

