

## **SWIFTWATER RESCUE FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE**

### RESPONSE-

First Due, Tower 26, Battalion Chief 21, Special Rescue 21 with raft and TRT notification.

Minimum of 2 TRT (Technical Rescue Team) or SRT (Swiftwater Rescue Technician I) personnel or a combination of, on scene prior to water entry, whether by raft or personal floatation device (PFD).

### SAFETY CONCERNS-

Swiftwater rescues are high risk operations and will be under the guidance of TRT/SRT members.

Keep bystanders and witnesses away from the water. Keep all rescue personnel in PFD's. Only TRT/SRT members shall make water entry via raft or PFD.

Do not tie ropes across the river in right angles to current flow. Do not tie ropes to rescuers other than clipped into rescue PFD.

### PRIORITY ACTIONS-

Self safety/rescue, Team safety/rescue, Victim safety/rescue.

First due locate any witnesses of RP, determine point last seen (PLS).

Identify if known body recovery or rescue operation.

Position member with PFD downstream of victim with throw bag and whistle.

Position member with PFD upstream of victim with whistle to watch and warn for debris and river traffic.

Rescue methods-

**Reach** victim with pole from shore.

**Throw** a throw bag to the victim.

**Row** a boat to the victim (TRT/SRT).

**Go** into water to get victim (TRT/SRT).

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS-

Size-up considerations include number of victims, rapids, strainers, boat traffic, downstream collection points and weather and water conditions.

River right and left are determined when looking downstream.

A spotter should be assigned to watch people in water.

If victim is not at PLS upon arrival, areas of high probability include upstream side of rocks and strainers and eddies downstream of PLS.

Whistle signals-

- One blast- Stop or attention

- Two blasts- Watch/look at me or direction indicated

- Three blasts repeated- Emergency