



# Edgerton Fire Protection District

## Skill Drill #113 - Open Water Rescue

### Objective

Participants will become familiar with skills necessary to perform during open water rescue operations. Response guidelines, Command and Control tactics, and operational practices will be performed.

Important facts:

- The Body cannot maintain its temperature in water that is less than 92 degrees F.
- Heat loss occurs 25 times faster in water than in air
- Immersion often leads to hypothermia

### Preparation

- Determine and reserve training location.
- Be sure the apparatus you want to use is available
- Contact the communications center to let them know what channel you will be using during training.

### Training

- Station briefing
  - What to do if a call comes in during training
  - Radio channel to be used during the training
  - Divide group into 2 smaller groups
  - Response Guidelines
  - Command and Control
- Evolutions



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### **\*\*\*\*\* Automatic Aid\*\*\*\*\***

Milton Fire should be dispatched as automatic aid for any water rescue. For incidents on Koshkonong and the Rock River North of the dam, they will be responding to Harbor Recreation and launching their boat. For incidents in other locations, they will respond directly to the scene with their Zodiac. If they are not automatically dispatched, the Officer in Charge shall contact the dispatch center and request them.

### **Response Guidelines**

- Incidents on Koshkonong and the Rock River North of the dam (including mutual aid with Milton and Fort Atkinson)
  - Officers and pre-designated members may respond directly to the boat lift located at Harbor Recreation.
  - Engine 72 will respond to the boat lift with no more than 3 personnel on board. These members will staff the boat and respond directly to the incident location. When going en route in the boat, they shall advise Command where the Zodiac and Ambulance 73 should respond (most likely a designated staging area).
  - Upon arrival at the staging area, personnel shall establish accountability and assume Incident Command if it has not been established.
- Incidents below the dam or in other areas (i.e. Gibbs Lake, Mud Lake, or mutual aid)
  - The Zodiac, Engine 72, and Ambulance 73 shall respond to the nearest access point.
  - Personnel from Engine 72 shall establish accountability and assume Incident Command if it has not been established.



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### Command and Control

- **Arrival, Size Up, and Initiate/Establish Command**
  - Recognize that this incident may extend beyond the initial operational period
  - An IAP may need to be developed
  - Determine Incident Complexity
- **Identify and Secure General Hazards**
  - Electrical Utilities (for flood rescues)
  - Gas, propane, fuel oil, other alternative energy sources
  - Water Size Up (Temperature, hazards)
  - Communications
- **Identify and Secure Personal Hazards**
  - Trips, slips, falls, etc.
  - PFD's
- **Identify Hazards that are Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health**
  - Swift water situations with currents exceeding those in which a person or watercraft can safely operate
- **Secure the general area**
  - Controlling/limiting access to the area by unnecessary personnel
- **Locate, Identify, Secure and Interview Witnesses**
  - Identify the LSP (Last Seen Point)



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### Evolutions

#### Evolution #1

- Crews will staff both the Zodiac and 742. They will be given a general location and scene scenario. It will be up to the OIC and crews to locate, rescue, and return the victim to shore. After completing this exercise, crew members will switch roles until everyone has shown competence in the evolution.

### Discussion Questions

Is there anything that can be done to improve safety?

What techniques worked the best? Why?

Is there any additional equipment needed?

How can we improve our response?