

SUBJECT: ROPE RESCUE	SECTION: 303.04
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PURPOSE

To establish uniform and standard guidelines for rope rescue for the Reading Fire Department.

POLICY

The Reading Fire Department shall respond to all high angle incidents within jurisdiction. The Incident commander shall determine rescue or recovery, and actions to be taken based on manpower, equipment available and level of training of personnel. Only members who have been trained may hang from rope, rig or operate systems and perform evacuations of victims. Rope rescue is a dangerous activity and safety shall be stressed. All other means of access and egress must be considered first.

REFERENCE

1. *IMS Model Procedures Guide for Structural Collapse and US&R Operations, 1st edition, 1998.*
2. *Rescue Technician, 1st edition, 1998.*
3. *Rope Rescue Manual, 2nd edition, 1992.*

PROCEDURE

I. Assessment

- A. Establish command.
- B. Survey the scene.
- C. Evaluate equipment and systems already in place.
- D. Control any observed or anticipated hazards already in place, this would include lock out/tag out and control of utilities.
- E. Take steps to prevent further injury to victim or injury to rescuers.
- F. Assess the victims condition to determine what resources will be needed to perform evacuation
 1. Reading Fire Department Recall with dual response from Evendale Fire Department
 2. Hamilton County USAR team
 3. Cincinnati Squad 52
 4. Green Township High Angle
 5. Anderson Township High Angle

II. Operations

- A. Systems normally used within Reading Fire Department operations are 4:1 pre-rigged, 3:1 Z Drag and standard rappel.
- B. All raising and lowering systems shall have a brake rigged and available for use. Brakes will be backed up and sized to accommodate any actual or possible load.
- C. Standard commands such as “on belay”, “off belay”, “tension”, “slack”, “haul”, “haul slow”, “set”, “stop” shall be used at all times.
- D. Once a rescuer is over edge, only a designated Edge person will communicate with rescuers and haul teams. The Edge Person shall be secured to an anchor.
- E. A safety check shall be performed on each system prior to use, this also includes systems already placed in service prior to FD arrival. Only trained members can deem rigging safe for use by another member. If operations does not delegate a safety officer then responsibility is assumed by operations.

III. Equipment

- A. All personal equipment shall be pre-approved before use in either training or actual rescue. Equipment shall be manufactured and maintained by nationally recognized organizations, such as NFPA, ANSI, OSHA, UIAA, etc., who are known for establishing requirements for rope equipment shall be referenced for guidelines used in equipment evaluations.
- B. All rope shall be in kernmantle construction. Unless used in prussic, all rope shall be of no less than one half inch (1/2) /thirteen millimeters (13) in diameter. Prussik rope shall be a minimum of 8 mm in diameter.
- C. All carabiners shall be locking and have a 10 thousand pound capacity. Carabiners may be doubled to achieve protection factor.
- D. Tandem prussiks will be system of choice for brakes and lifting cams.
- E. Power winches, cranes, etc. are not acceptable as means of movement of rescue personnel or victims.