



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
BOAT ACCIDENTS

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Purpose: To establish standards for GFD operations for boat accidents and water rescue incidents, including safety considerations, responsibility, precautions, notification, safety considerations, and resources.

GFD will respond with # 135, 150, 151, and 180, and/or equipment as deemed necessary and at the direction of the first responding officer on scene.

Upon arrival, GFD personnel will conduct a scene size up with the Police Department (PD) and Sheriff's Office (SO) and caller, if he/she is available in order to determine the validity of the claim, the total number of victims involved, critical hazards associated with the rescue, including, but not limited to fire, explosion, prevailing winds, water currents, weather and anticipated weather changes.

Based on the above findings, a plan of action shall be developed that will facilitate the rescue.

Based on best judgment, GFD Officer's shall utilize civilian personnel to assist with location of accident, as well as assist as needed at the accident scene. This familiarity with the waterway and with boating equipment can be useful in some cases.

The GFD Officer -in-Charge shall:

- Establish Incident Command until formally relieved by another GFD Officer.
- Assign a Safety Officer for overall Scene Safety.
- Coordinate with law enforcement members on scene and interview witnesses to the accident.
- Inform Dispatch to inform all responding units of the:
 - Exact location and routing to the incident.
 - Location and designation of 'Command'.
 - Number people involved.
 - Presumed Mechanism of Injury (MOI).
 - Extenuating circumstances that may affect rescue operations.
 - Assignment upon arrival.
 - Number and type of resources needed, including EMS units and medical helicopter.
 - Location and designation of the Staging area.
 - Radio channel for tactical operations upon arrival.

Responsibilities

- Coordinate with other Public Safety Agencies.
- Establish an Incident Command Post.
- Determine the specific location of boat(s) and devise of safe plan of access, egress, and rescue/retrieval.
- Establish a tactical working channel for scene communications and control and monitor a marine radio frequency if necessary and available.
- Facilitate rescue operations with qualified personnel with proper safety clothing/gear, tools and equipment.
- Assist EMS providers with the treatment of victims, with particular attention to head and spinal trauma, burns and hypothermia.