



# Scarborough Fire Department

## Scarborough, Maine



### Standard Operating Guidelines

<b>Book:</b>	<b>Emergency Operations</b>
<b>Chapter:</b>	<b>Marine Operations</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>3710 – Marine Rescue Operations</b>
<b>Revision Date:</b>	<b>9/17/2010 revised 7/31/15; 01/23/2017</b>
<b>Approved by:</b>	<i>B. Michael Thurlow</i>

#### PURPOSE

To outline policies and procedures for the safe and effective operation of our Marine Rescue Team to rescue individuals and vessels in distress on the inland waterways and ponds as well as the coastal and intertidal waters of the Town of Scarborough.

#### POLICY

The Scarborough Fire Department has procured boats, equipment, and trained personnel in Marine Rescue operations to assist residents and visitors to the community who are involved in marine related situations requiring assistance. The need for assistance can be from a variety of factors listed below under definitions.

It is the policy of the Scarborough Fire Department to work collaboratively with the Scarborough Marine Resource Officer/Harbor Master, United States Coast Guard, Inland Fish & Wildlife, Marine Patrol, Secret Service, and our mutual aid partners to provide Marine Rescue Operations in a safe and effective manner as required.

#### DEFINITIONS

- A. Disabled Vessel – A vessel that is having mechanical, fuel, or other problems where the crew and occupants are not in any imminent danger and the vessel is in no immediate danger of damage, sinking, or running aground.
- B. Vessel in Distress – A vessel that is experiencing a condition that requires prompt action to mitigate, but does not reflect an immediate danger to the vessel or crew. Examples of a vessel in distress include: taking on water while pumps are still operating, vessels stranded on sand bars or drifting towards shoal water or dangerous conditions, flare sightings, and non-emergent medical conditions of crew members or passengers.
- C. Vessel or individuals in immediate danger – includes vessels on fire, vessels that are sinking, vessels on or in danger of contacting rocks or ledges, drownings, search and rescue missions, individuals requiring immediate emergency medical assistance, and any situation that is an immediate threat to life or property.
- D. Marine 1 - 18' Avon rigid/inflatable stationed at Pine Point station
- E. Marine 3 – 16' Smokercraft open skiff stationed at the Police Department Storage Building at Public Works.

- F. Marine 4 - 21' Boston Whaler stationed at Pine Point station (on dock at Co-Op in season)
- G. Marine 5 - 10' inflatable stationed at North Scarborough station
- H. PFD – Personal Floatation Device
- I. POB - Person's On Board
- J. SBSP – Scarborough Beach State Park

## **PROCEDURE**

### Marine Team General Procedures

- A. The Incident Commander should establish command in a location where he/she has visual contact with the vessel or victim if possible and where he/she can make a determination as to weather and sea conditions.
- B. The safety of our personnel is always the primary concern when launching a marine rescue operation. The IC should make a decision as early as possible as to the current sea and weather conditions and should hold the boats from launching if it is not safe to do so.
- C. The IC shall obtain and document the names of all crew members on each vessel deployed for accountability purposes.
- D. Marine units shall only be operated by those members that have been certified as Marine Boat Operators as outlined under the training requirements of this policy. No unauthorized individuals shall be allowed to ride on marine units without written permission of the Fire Chief.
- E. When operating any department marine vessel, the operator shall adhere to all marine navigational rules and regulations outlined in Title 12, MRS.
- F. The operator of the vessel shall be directly responsible for the safe and prudent operation of the vessel at all times and under all conditions.
- G. When an officer is present on the vessel, they are responsible for all operations performed by that vessel. In the absence of an officer, the operator of the vessel shall fill that role.
- H. All marine communications should be moved to Marine channel 81 as soon as possible and all traffic to dispatch should be handled through the IC on the fire primary frequency. The Incident Commander shall conduct periodic status checks with marine units during extended operations.
- I. When operating on mutual aid calls the marine units shall operate on Marine channel 81.
- J. The IC may request any department marine unit or the Scarborough Beach State Park (SBSP) Lifeguard's or Old Orchard Fire Department's Jet Skis as additional resources as required.
- K. When the SBSP Jet Ski is stored at Black Point station, Engine 1 personnel should notify Command it is manned and ready to respond to a Higgins Beach or Scarborough Beach incident during the day. The Jet Ski may only be operated by SBSP lifeguards or fire department personnel trained in its operation and only during daylight hours.
- L. The IC should request additional resources from mutual aid communities and other agencies (i. e. Coast Guard, Marine Patrol, Inland Fish & Wildlife) as required.
- M. Consider use of the Command Van for extended or multi-agency events.
- N. The IC should either personally meet, or assign a unit to meet with the complainant whenever possible to gather as much information as possible of the last known location, POB, and nature of emergency to determine required resources or mutual aid needs.
- O. The minimum crew size for any boat is a crew of 2. The maximum crew size for Marine 1 is 4. The maximum crew size for Marine 3 is 3. The maximum crew size for Marine 4

is 5. If available the crew should include a licensed EMS provider, and a certified rescue swimmer.

- P. All crew members must wear PFDs at all times when operating on a marine rescue boat. Work, dry, or survival suits shall be worn when weather or sea conditions warrant. Wet or dry suits are not considered PFDs and members wearing wet or dry suits must also wear a vest type PFD.
- Q. On coastal area responses Marine 1 should be staffed at Pine Point station if there is sufficient crew, and Command should be notified in case it is needed based on the nature of the marine response.

#### Rescue Swimmers

- A. The IC shall authorize the deployment of rescue swimmers if required.
- B. Rescue swimmers will be deployed only as a last resort and only when safe to do so.

#### Flare Sightings

- A. The Marine Units will assemble and prepare but not launch until the IC has evaluated the situation and determined the need for any operations.
- B. The IC shall attempt to make contact with the reporting party to gather the information on the attached Flare Sighting Check Sheet before deciding to commit resources.
- C. If marine units are committed ensure the search unit has the last known position, proceeds to that area, and completes a Vector Search and determines set and drift for the other responding units as well as the search and rescue planner at the USCG.

#### Cliff Rescues

- A. Consider activating the Cape WET team for certified High Angle Rescue personnel, equipment, and assistance

#### Training Requirements

- A. Basic Marine Responder – required to be taken as a crew member on any emergency call
  - a. Marine Team Orientation and Vessel Familiarization Class
  - b. Use of PFDs and safety equipment
- B. Marine Boat Operator – required to operate any marine boat
  - a. Certified Basic Marine Responder
  - b. Basic Navigation & Seamanship Class
  - c. Successful completion of Marine Boat Operator Certification (Form 1559)

#### **REFERENCES**

- A. United State Coast Guard Check Sheets and Standards
- B. MRS Title 12, Various Sections
- C. MRS Title 38, Various Sections
- D. SOP 1630 – Marine Rescue Dispatch Policy

**Flare Sighting Checklist**

Report Taken by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Obtain Information from the Reporting Source**

Name: First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude \_\_\_\_\_

Bearing & Range from prominent landmark: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree & Distance \_\_\_\_\_

Current Location of Reporting Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Reporting Party Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Current Location \_\_\_\_\_ Home/work/cell \_\_\_\_\_

Height of Eye: Height of reporting source from sea level: \_\_\_\_\_  
If reporting from a building, what floor #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Obtain Information About The Flare Characteristics**

Color (circle any that apply): RED AMBER WHITE GREEN OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Flares: Number Observed: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Sighting: \_\_\_\_\_

Time & Duration: Interval between flares: \_\_\_\_\_ Duration of burn: \_\_\_\_\_

Trajectory (Circle One): RISE ONLY FALL ONLY STEADY no rise or fall  
RAPID RISE & FALL RAPID RISE & SLOW DESCENT

Origin: Observed: YES NO NEAR HORIZON BETWEEN SOURCE & HORIZON

Flare Origin: SURFACE AIR OTHER \_\_\_\_\_