

Category 5

Criterion 5G: Technical Rescue Program

The agency operates an adequate, effective, efficient and safe technical rescue program directed toward rescuing the community from any life-endangering causes (e.g., structural collapse, vehicle accidents, swift water or submersion, confined space, cave-in, trench collapse). If identified risks are outside the scope of the agency's capabilities, Category 10 performance indicators should address the agency's ability to receive aid from partners in those areas. The agency must conduct a thorough risk assessment as part of activities in Category 2 to determine the need for specific technical rescue programs and support the overall risk reduction strategy. Agencies that only provide first responder services must also complete this criterion.

Summary:

The Meridian Fire Department operates a technical rescue program directed toward rescuing the community from life-endangering vehicle accidents and swift/surface water incidents. All department firefighters are trained to the technician level for vehicle extrication, the operations level for Swift and Surface Water Search and Rescue, and the awareness level for other technical rescues, per National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1670: *Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents*. For rescues involving low and high angle ropes rescue, structural collapse, confined space, advanced water rescue, and trench collapse, assistance from an outside agency is required. An automatic aid agreement is in place with Boise Fire Department, which staffs a technical rescue team available with technician level skills and equipment.

Equipment for extrication and stabilization for vehicle rescue and equipment for water rescue are carried on all MFD engines and trucks. In addition, Truck 31 carries heavy rescue equipment and more advanced extrication equipment to address advanced extrications or machinery accidents. Training for these disciplines occur during the academy, and refresher training is conducted on a periodic basis.

Performance Indicators:

CC 5G.1 Given the agency's community risk assessment/standards of cover and emergency performance statements, the agency meets its staffing, response time, station(s), apparatus, and equipment deployment objectives for each type and level of risk of a technical rescue incident(s).

Description

The department responds to all technical rescue calls in the City of Meridian. The calls are dispatched using automatic vehicle locators (AVL) so that the closest appropriate units are dispatched. Training for department line personnel varies with each discipline. All members are trained to the technician level for vehicle extrication, operational level for swift and surface water rescue, and the awareness level for all other technical rescues, per National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1670: *Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents*. All engines are equipped with extrication and stabilization equipment, including hydraulic or battery-operated spreaders and cutters, and water rescue equipment, allowing for first in units to begin immediate rescue operations. Truck 31 is equipped with heavy rescue equipment, and is added to any vehicle rescue requiring extrication. If the scope and complexity of the rescue exceeds the ability of the department, the department has automatic aid agreements, outlined in documented fire response lists (FRLs), with Boise Fire Department for their technical rescue team and with Eagle Fire Department for their water/dive rescue team.

Appraisal

The department has been able to successfully manage all types of vehicle extrications in its response area. The department has been able to respond to and stabilize all water rescues in its response area and has received support from Eagle Fire Department when requested. Any technical rescue incident beyond the response capabilities of the department has received aid from Boise Fire's technical rescue team.

In 2022 the department had a 90th percentile first unit total response time of 7 minutes and 43 seconds to moderate risk vehicle extrication calls. The effective response force (ERF)

total response time was 15 minutes and 57 seconds 90% of the time. There was not enough data on high-risk water rescue, trench, building collapse, or high-angle rescue calls to calculate 90th percentile data, as the department responded to less than 10 calls of each call type in the past 3 years.

Plan

A technical rescue committee will be established to evaluate the community and department's needs for technical rescue personnel, training, equipment and placement. A potential river float area may be established in the north end of the department's response area in the next 5-10 years, in which case the department will have need of a robust swift water program. The department will organize regular training with the Boise and Eagle fire rescue teams to train its personnel on better initial response plans to better assist with rescue operations. The department will continue to train all of its new personnel to the technician level for vehicle extrication and provide annual refresher training.

References

- Community Risk Assessment/Standards of Cover, pg. 115-117, 128-129
- NFPA 1670: *Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents*
- Ada County Fire Response Lists

CC 5G.2 The agency conducts a formal and documented program appraisal, at least annually, to determine the impact, outcomes and effectiveness of the program and to measure its performance toward meeting the agency's goals and objectives.

Description

Following the accreditation model, the department has a formal and documented program appraisal process outlined in Administrative Standard Operating Guidelines (ASOGs). Appraisals are conducted annually following the fiscal year model, and must be completed prior to budget requests being submitted. The deputy chief of operations is responsible for the completion of the technical rescue appraisal and may assign it to the technical rescue committee as needed. The department responds to all vehicle extrication and machinery accidents in its community with technician level personnel and equipment on all apparatus. The department provides an initial response to all water rescue and other technical rescue emergencies such as confined space, trench rescue, and building collapse and receives aid from Boise or Eagle Fire's rescue teams as needed.

Appraisal

The program appraisal for the program's technical rescue program in 2022 primarily focused on the department's extrication program. The department conducted annual extrication refresher training for all line personnel and trained new lateral hires on technician level vehicle extrication. The department responded to multiple vehicle accidents requiring extrication and was able to handle those incidents within the department's response plan. The department also conducted refresher training on water rescue for all personnel to include the use of protective equipment (personal flotation devices (PFDs) and helmets) and throw bags.

Plan

An annual, formal and documented technical rescue program appraisal is to be completed by, or at the direction of the Deputy Chief of operations. A technical rescue committee will be established to evaluate the community and department's needs for technical rescue personnel, training, equipment and placement. MFD will consider staffing a leadership position for special operations to improve training, and ensure formal record keeping for

training and equipment. As the technical rescue needs of the community grow, the department will also develop standard operating guidelines, performance standards and training objectives for all incidents.

References

- Annual Program Appraisal_5G.2 Tech Rescue
- ASOG – Program Appraisals