

## P-212

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### Water Rescue Procedures

#### P-212.1 PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a standard response to Water Rescue Investigations as well as Water Rescue Responses in the County.

#### P-212.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that all fire agencies that respond to water rescues have a standardized resource response to accomplish the incident at hand.

#### P-212.3 REFERENCES

N/A

#### P-212.4 PROCEDURES

##### 1. Definitions

- a. Bayside Jurisdictions include all except Daly City, Pacifica, Coastside and the coast battalion of San Mateo County Fire
- b. Oceanic jurisdictions include Daly City, Pacifica, Coastside and the coast battalion of San Mateo County Fire

##### 2. Apparatus / Resources

- a. All water craft call signs will be prefaced with "Boat", "Air Boat" or "Jet Ski", followed by their appropriate station identifier. Example: "Air Boat 1" or "Boat 9".
- b. The one exception will be the Sheriff's Office boat operated in conjunction with the fire service out of Coyote Point. The call sign will be "Boat 14"

##### 3. Response Modes

- a. Resources are recommended for assignment based on station ordering.

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- b. A Water Rescue Investigation in bayside jurisdictions is comprised of a minimum of 1 Engine (or Truck or Quint or Rescue), 1 BC, 1 water rescue resource and a notification page to the OES Law Liaison.
- c. A Water Rescue Response in bayside jurisdictions is comprised of a minimum of 2 Engines (or Truck or Quint or Rescue), 1 BC and 2 water rescue resources.
- d. An agency representative for the second boat shall contact the IC via cell phone, zone command channel, county wide command channel or report to the incident command post.
- e. A Water Rescue Investigation in oceanic jurisdictions is comprised of a minimum of 1 Engine (or Truck or Quint or Rescue), 1 BC and a notification page to the OES Law Liaison.
- f. A Water Rescue Response in oceanic jurisdictions is comprised of a minimum of 1 Engine (or Truck or Quint or Rescue) and 1 BC but no less than the Water Rescue Investigation.

#### **4. Deployment**

- a. At no time shall any personnel operate on, in or near the water without proper PPE including Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's).
- b. At no time shall any personnel operating on, in or near the water wear turnouts.
- c. Availability and status updates of Sheriff personnel staffing Boat 14 shall be reported to the controlling fire dispatcher by either the OES Law Liaison or Sheriff personnel assigned to the resource.
- d. Water craft dispatched to or notified of a water rescue investigation and/or water rescue response shall stage at the dock, launch ramp or other similar location and shall launch only at the direction of the IC.
- e. A water rescue investigation should be upgraded to a water rescue response by the IC whenever watercraft are launched.

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- f. Beyond this policy, each responding agency will follow their appropriate SOG for water operations. This policy shall override any conflicts.

**5. Communications**

- a. Units dispatched to a Water Rescue Investigation or Response on the bay side will typically be assigned Command 51 while those involved in oceanic incidents will be assigned the corresponding zone command channel.
- b. Resources assigned to the event shall communicate on the PSC assigned fire channel(s) unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander.
- c. The IC may request additional channels as needed. While the water resource is operating in the bay the safest and most effective radio communications is on a repeated command channel.
- d. Coordination with USCG resources will occur on a USCG channel. Coordination on these frequencies may be managed by a USCG AREP.