

**MARMORA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**  
**WATER RESCUE**  
**STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP)**

**CHAPTER 1**  
**GENERAL**

**704:1-1-1. POLICY.** The policy of the Marmora Volunteer Fire Company (MVFC) is to conduct water rescue operations whenever required, and within the limitations of the Company.

**704:1-1-2. PURPOSE.** This Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) establishes the water rescue policy and procedures for the MVFC.

**704:1-1-3. GENERAL.** The MVFC will be expected to support Upper Township Rescue Squad (UTRS) watercraft operations, normally during the boating and swimming season, within the channels, bays and canals adjacent to Fire District 3. In addition as mutual aid support to other state agencies (Marine Police) or federal agencies (United States Coast Guard), or as a MVFC operation.

**704:1-1-4. RESPONSIBILITIES.** This SOP establishes responsibilities for the safe operation and support of a Watercraft Rescue Unit (WRU), and personnel safety during a water rescue incident.

a. MVFC personnel required or approved to assist in the WRU operation and equipment shall adhere to the policy established within this SOP.

b. The First Responder (FR) Captain will have overall responsibility for the First Responder Watercraft Team (FRWT). This includes, but not limited to the following:

- (1). Selection of FRWT members.
- (2). Training of FRWT members.
- (3). Maintenance of the watercraft and the equipment.
- (4). Duty assignment of personnel.
- (5). Appropriate transportation of the watercraft.

**704:1-1-5. WATERCRAFT RESCUE UNIT (WRU) PLANNING.**

a. **Short Term.** The short-term plan for the MVFC is as follows:

(1). Support the UTRS one-(1) WRU transported to the scene, for immediate response and periodic use by the FRWT.

---

\*This SOP supersedes SOP 704 dated 2 January 2001

(2). Have sufficient personnel trained in order to have two or more teams available for WRU operations.

(3). Water Rescue Equipment pack is stored in the rear seat behind the driver of 15-12. Release the seat back, and reach in to pull the equipment out.

b. **Long Term.** The long-term plan for the MVFC is as follows:

(1). To have our own WRU docked at All Action Water sports docks.

(2). Have a second WRU on a boat trailer housed at UTRS.

(3). Respond the second WRU on boat trailer for mutual aid, training and emergency responses.

(4). Update equipment and training as required.

(5). Have sufficient personnel trained in order to have four to six qualified teams available for WRU operations.

## **CHAPTER 2** **WATERCRAFT TEAM QUALIFICATIONS**

**704:2-2-1. UNQUALIFIED PERSONNEL.** No probationary Firefighters, Junior Firefighters or suspended members are authorized to participate in FRWT rescue operations. Probationary Firefighters and Junior Firefighters are authorized to train with qualified FRWT members.

**704:2-2-2. QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.** The following requirements will be met to become a member of the FRWT.

a. Provide written application with biographic sketch to the FR Captain.

b. Be a member in good standing, with at least two years in the MVFC.

c. Be a certified First Responder as a minimum.

d. Pass a prescribed Boaters Safety Course, i.e., the N.J. State Boaters Safety Course or the USCG Boaters Safety Course.

e. Pass a water lifesaving course, i.e., Red Cross Lifesaving Course.

## **CHAPTER 3** **DISPATCH**

**704:3-3-1. DISPATCH CRITERIA.** The following criteria shall be used when dispatching the MVFC FRWT for a Water Rescue assignment with 15-12.

a. The FRWT will be dispatched for boating accidents, injuries, life threatening emergencies and drownings in or on the water covered areas within or adjacent to Fire District 3.

b. The FRWT will be dispatched for mutual aid requests for boating accidents, injuries, life threatening emergencies and drownings in the water covered areas adjacent to Fire District 3.

**704:3-3-2. DISPATCH PROTOCOL.** The following protocols shall be followed for incidents classified as a "Water Rescue" assignment.

a. Central Dispatch will activate Upper Township Rescue Squad (UTRS) tones and announce the location of the incident, and dispatch Station 15, 15-12 as a mutual aid.

b. Central Dispatch will then requests a Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) MEDIC 8.

c. Central Dispatch will notify the USCG and N.J. Marine Police.

d. Central Dispatch will request Southstar Medivac in cases involving significant trauma.

**704:3-3-3. MVFC RESPONSE.** On any and all Water Rescue dispatches the following personnel shall respond.

a. 15-12 will dispatch with duty crew.

b. The designated five man FRWT will respond in 15-70.

c. One Chief or Deputy Chief Officer.

d. 15-30 with full crew.

e. One Safety Officer.

f. UTRS for Basic Life Support (BLS).

g. MEDIC 8 for Advanced Life Support (ALS).

#### **CHAPTER 4** **OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

**704:4-4-1. COMMAND.** As in any MVFC emergency responses the Incident Command System (ICS) will be followed. Upon arrival on the scene the IC will complete an immediate assessment of the situation, in order to determine the action to be taken and the response required. The IC shall stay on shore and the FRWT Leader shall operate on the water until the

incident is concluded.

**704:4-4-2. GENERAL GUIDELINES.** The following general operational guidelines apply to FRWT operations on the water.

- a. The WRU shall be deployed with two (2) FRWT members on board, one must be EMT-D qualified.
- b. The WRU operator will operate/drive in a safe and prudent manner.
- c. Safe arrival at the scene shall always have priority over speed and maneuvering enroute to an emergency scene.
- d. WRU operators and passengers shall understand and use safety features, i.e., water rescue helmets, Personal Flotation Devices (PFD), water rescue gloves, wetsuits, dry suits, whistles, flashlights, strobe lights, radios and ignition kill switches.
- e. Operation of radios will be in accordance with MVFC policy and procedures.
- f. The FRWT will flush out and clean the WRU after each operation, to include refueling, checking the oil and an overall safety inspection of the WRU, trailer and 15-12.
- g. The IC will assemble a second FRWT for a second WRU depending on the emergency situation and length of operations.

**704:4-4-3. FRWT REQUIREMENTS.** The following FRWT profile requirements will be followed when conducting operations in support of UTRS, and until MVFC has it's own WRU.

- a. Each FRWT will consist of five qualified members.
- b. The FRWT will respond on 15-70.
- c. **Team Assignments.**
  - (1). Driver 15-70--apparatus operation and tools.
  - (2). Team Leader--in charge of rescue/emergency operations on the water. (Normally EMT-D qualified.
  - (3). WRU Operator--driver and overall Safety Officer at the scene.
  - (4). Two FRWT members will standby at the waters edge for additional assistance, assignment of duties and relief of committed members as required.

**704:4-4-4. VICTIM TREATMENT.**

a. It should be understood that the primary objective of the FRWT is to facilitate the rapid removal of victims from the water, and transport them to the shoreline for proper treatment.

b. Emergency treatment at the scene will be accomplished within the constraints of the situation.

c. In all water rescue cases the following equipment shall be at the deployment and retrieval site.

- Long board and CID blocks
- C-spine collars
- First Responder Oxygen bag
- Trauma Bag SAED

**704:4-4-5. REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND BASED WATER RESCUE.** The following requirements for equipment apply to any MVFC 15-12 FRWT members entering the water from a land based water rescue operation.

- 1 Rescue can with harness
- 1 600 foot spooled reel line attached
- 1 MVFC PFD
- 1 MVFC Water Rescue Helmet
- 1 Whistle
- 1 Submersible flashlight (as required)
- 1 Personal Rescue Strobe Light (as required)
- 1 Wet/Dry suit (as required)
- 1 Pair water rescue gloves

**704:4-4-6. MUTUAL AID.** Mutual aid shall be provided upon request of the district or city needing assistance.

**704:4-4-7. SAFETY.**

a. A qualified MVFC Safety Officer or designee shall oversee all aspects of training and emergency responses during all on shore operations.

b. Because of limited WRU passenger seating the Operator will assume Safety Officer duties at the emergency scene during off shore operations.

**704:4-4-8. TRAINING.** In order to maintain FRWT membership each member will be required to participate in the following training.

- a. Periodic EMT-D/First Responder Refresher Training.

**STATION 15**  
**\*SOP 704**

**24 AUGUST 2004**

- b. Biennial CPR Refresher Training.
- c. Boater Safety Refresher Training.
- d. Water Life Saving Refresher Training.
- e. FRWT Training once per month from May through October.

**JAY NEWMAN**  
**CHIEF**

**OFFICIAL:**

**JEFF PIERSON**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF**  
**TRAINING OFFICER**