

## Operating Guideline # 1402

### Watercraft Rescue in Inflatable Rescue Boats

April 17, 2023



#### PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Operating Guideline (OG) is to describe the initial actions to be taken by Emergency Operations staff members who respond with the MFLD inflatable rescue boat and provide the services defined as Watercraft Rescue.

#### GUIDELINE:

##### General

1. The safety of crews shall always be paramount in the minds of those persons charged with making initial and ongoing strategic, tactical and task level decisions at emergency incidents.
- 2.
3. All members when hearing three horn blasts in combination with spoken word "MAYDAY" three times repeated on a radio shall go to the designated Cold zone for a personal accountability report to Command.
4. Only those members who have received the NFPA 1006 Chapter 22 Watercraft rescue Operations level training, shall be crew on the inflatable rescue boat.
5. When the inflatable rescue boat is deployed to any waterbody in Muskoka Lakes, the incident commander shall activate another vessel to be ready to respond. This may include the OPP marine units or private vessels.
6. At no time shall Marine 6 be utilized on a waterbody in inclement weather without another vessel ready to respond.

#### RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all firefighters to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.

#### DEFINITIONS:

**"Immersion suit"** means a special suit designed to keep the wearer warm and dry when they are immersed in water (also known as a dry suit).

**"PFD"** means a Personal Floatation Device stamped or labeled and approved by Transport Canada or the Canadian Coast Guard.

**"Rescue Sector Officer" (RSO)** means an individual appointed by the Incident Commander within the Incident Command System to act as the primary supervisor responsible for rescue operations.

**"Standing Water"** means water that does not have an appreciable current.

**"Swift Water"** means water that is flowing at such a speed so as to constitute a danger to rescuers or persons in the water.

#### REFERENCES:

- Section 21 Committee Guidance Note GN 6-3, Water and Ice Rescue
- Section 21 Committee Guidance Note GN 6-2 Firefighting Near Water

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