FIRE DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON TWP
DISTRICT
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GLOUCESTER
COUNTY
N.J.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT
TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
GLOUCESTER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Board of Fire Commissioners
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EMERGENCY
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FIRE DEPARTMENT POLICY # 35-06

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

The purpose of this policy is to provide a foundation for the technical rescue incidents that may occur within the jurisdiction of Washington Township and those incidents that are considered Mutual Aid. Technical rescues include but are not limited to structural collapse, confined space, trench rescue, and rescue from elevated positions. This policy is intended to allow for safe and efficient technical rescue operations and for the general criteria of a technical rescue team. *It shall be the policy of the Washington Township Fire District to participate and to be a core member of the consortium of fire departments in Gloucester County known as the Gloucester County RUST (Regional Urban Search & Rescue Team) and or Gloucester County Technical Rescue Team. The District Fire Chief shall be the designated representative of the Board of Fire Commissioners in regards to applications for funding and for operational agreements related to technical rescue.*

Organization:

- The WTFD Technical Rescue Team will be organized under Fire-Rescue Operations of the fire department.
- The WTFD District Fire Chief, with concurrence of the Technical Rescue Team Leader and in consultation with the District Training Captain shall appoint various members of the department to the Technical Rescue Team.
- The WTFD District Fire Chief shall appoint One (1) primary member of the team as the Technical Rescue Team Leader. The term of appointment shall be for one (1) year but shall carry over for another term without formal reappointment if none has been made.
    - The team leader must meet the minimum district standards for a Captain and must meet the minimum requirements to serve as a Captain or higher in accordance with district policy.
    - The team leader must also meet the standards of an operations level technical rescuer.
    - The team leader shall have technical responsibility for the overall operations of the Technical Rescue Team. The team leader shall be a direct report to the District Fire Chief in matters relating to Technical Rescue.
    - The District Fire Chief shall appoint two squad team leaders and a training coordinator after consultation with the team leader.
- Two (2) Primary members shall be designated as "Squad Leaders"

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- The squad leaders shall be responsible for the personnel assigned to them and shall report to the team leader.
- Squad leaders must meet the minimum district standards for a Lieutenant.

- The training coordinator shall be responsible for coordinating the technical training for the team.
  - The training coordinator shall report to the team leader
  - The training coordinator shall be at least a certified NJDFS Level 1 instructor.
  - The training coordinator will coordinate with the District Training Captain and shall ensure various training assignments are made available for other members of the department who may not be assigned to technical rescue.
  - The training coordinator shall ensure records of technical training are kept on file with the District Training Captain in a separate file. This file may include the records of other Technical Rescue Team members affiliated with other fire departments that through a consortium are part of a county or regional task force for Technical Rescue.
- The team leader, squad leaders and training coordinator shall have no specific rank associated with their positions on the technical rescue team.

Team Members:

- Primary Members:
  - Two (2) years of NJDFS Firefighter 1 certified experience.
  - Meet all requirements of an active firefighter in WTFD.
  - Must be trained to the *Operations* Level per NFPA 1006 in one or more of the following fields – structural collapse, confined space, trench rescue, and/or rope rescue.
  - Must have a current CPR/AED certification (First Responder, EMT-B, or EMT-P preferred, but not required)
  - Must pass annual competency in technical rescue skills and knowledge.
  - Must attend a minimum of 24 hours of technical rescue team drills annually. Outside technical rescue classes may be used as a substitute at the team leader and training coordinator's discretion.
- Secondary Members:
  - Two (2) years of NJDFS Firefighter 1 certified experience (Years may be waived with a recommendation by the District Training Captain).
  - Meet all requirements of an active firefighter in WTFD.
  - Must attend a minimum of 16 hours of technical rescue team drill annually. Outside technical rescue classes may be used as a substitute at the team leader and training coordinator's discretion.
  - May be members of the department who have previously completed a formal course of instruction in Technical Rescue in any of the defined fields as described under Primary Member (Such as high angle rescue, confined space rescue, or trench rescue).

- May be members of the department with specialized skills used in Technical Rescue situations.
- May be newer members of the department meeting the first 3 bullets of this subsection aspiring to become Primary members.

Training:

- Drills shall be conducted every month for at least two (2) hours and may be scheduled during the evening hours on a regular night and occasionally during regular daytime business hours.
- One (1) drill will be conducted every quarter on a Saturday beginning at 0800 hours.
- *Technical rescue training shall also occur four (4) times a year as part of the regular fire department drill training schedule so as to provide some basic technical rescue training to all members of the Washington Township Fire Department.*
- Members are required to attend technical rescue team training every year in accordance with their team member status.
- Any qualified firefighter of the department may attend a training session of the Technical Rescue Team regardless of team member status in order to become familiar with various aspects of Technical Rescue.
- Because Technical Rescue is advanced training, it is not recommended that new, non qualified firefighters attend Technical Rescue training drills as a matter of practice, however if the individual has obtained approval from their departmental supervisor with concurrence of the TRT Leader and Team Training Coordinator, attendance may occur.

Standard Operating Procedures:

- SOPs for specific technical rescue operations shall be developed by the technical rescue team, fire department line officers, and approved for implementation by the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Mutual Aid deployments of the Technical Rescue Team shall include a Chief Officer or a duly appointed acting Chief Officer to function primarily as a liaison between the requesting agency and the WTFD Technical Rescue Team. The Chief Officer shall also be responsible for the overall assets deployed from WTFD and shall provide for the supervision of those assets as necessary.
- Deployment of the Technical Rescue Team within Washington Township or on Mutual Aid, may include both primary and secondary team members and other such qualified firefighters of the department necessary to fulfill a particular mission or circumstance. Non primary or secondary team members may be assigned to specific tasks for which they have special knowledge, training, or expertise, or who may be needed to perform general duties such as operating apparatus, operating air systems, labor, or other equipment for which they've been trained.

This policy was amended, approved and adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners on July 1, 2010, and shall take effect immediately.

By:

Edwin L. Etschman, III, Chairman

Attest:

Linda Robertson, Secretary