



# Standard Operational Guideline

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

### FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

#### River Rescue & Tactical Services



TITLE

Daily Operations v8

xx/xx/xx

- 1.0 **PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines for the normal day to day operations and responses of the RRATS Team to water related incidents.
- 2.0 **APPLICABILITY:** All RRATS personnel
- 3.0 **DEFINITIONS**
  - 3.1 **RRATS Duty Leader:** The senior RRATS officer available for consultation and service that day.
  - 3.2 **RRATS Duty Officer:** The senior RRATS officer working in a fire station that day.
  - 3.3 **Level I Dispatch (Water 1):** An incident requiring a consultation with the RRATS Duty Officer.
  - 3.4 **Level II Dispatch (Water 2):** An incident on the upper Potomac river or an inland water rescue. These incidents do not involve Swiftwater. The MCFRS response will be
    - 1 Manpower Piece
    - 1 ALS Unit
    - EMS Duty Officer
    - 1 Command Officer
    - Eagle 1 (for Potomac River)
    - 2 closest boats
    - Loudoun County VA (for upper Potomac).
    - RRATS Duty Officer
    - 1 closest Strike Team
  - 3.5 **Level III Dispatch (Water 3):** An incident on the lower Potomac River, Billy Goat Trail or an inland swiftwater rescue. The MCFRS response will be
    - 1 Manpower Piece
    - 1 ALS Unit
    - EMS Duty Officer
    - 1 Command Officer
    - Eagle 1 (for Potomac river)
    - 1 closest boat (for inland only)
    - Fairfax County VA (for lower Potomac River)
    - RRATS Duty Officer
    - 2 closest Strike Teams



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- 3.6 Level IV Dispatch (Water 4): An event requiring prolonged activity or a mutual aid type event. These events will require multiple Strike Teams and call back of personnel.
- 3.7 Level I Dispatch (Ice1): An incident requiring a consultation with the RRATS Duty Officer and Dive Duty officer.
- 3.8 Level II Dispatch (Ice2): An incident involving a surface or subsurface ice rescue. The MCFRS response will be
- Special Service unit (truck or squad)
  - 1 BLS Unit
  - 1 Manpower Piece
  - 1 ALS unit
  - EMS Duty Officer
  - 1 Command Officer
  - 2 closest boats
  - RRATS Duty Officer
  - 1 Strike Team
  - 1 Air Boat
  - Dive Team
  - Dive support unit
- 3.9 Level I Dispatch (Dive1): An incident requiring a consultation with the Dive Duty officer.
- 3.10 Level II Dispatch (Dive2): An incident involving a subsurface operation. The MCFRS response will be
- Special Service unit (truck or squad)
  - MAU 33
  - 1 Engine
  - 1 ALS Unit
  - EMS Duty Officer
  - 1 Command Officer
  - Dive Duty Officer
  - Dive Team, all on duty personnel
  - Dive support unit
  - 1 Strike Team
- 3.11 Level III Dispatch (Dive3): An incident involving a subsurface operation. The MCFRS response will be
- Special Service unit (truck or squad)
  - MAU 33
  - 1 Engine
  - 1 ALS unit
  - EMS Duty Officer
  - 1 Command Officer
  - Dive Duty Officer
  - Dive Team, all on & off duty personnel
  - Dive support unit
  - 1 Strike Team



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- 3.12 Desired Station Staffing Level: 2 swiftwater boat operators and 2 swiftwater boat crew members per station.
- 3.13 Minimum Station Staffing Level: 1 swiftwater boat operator and 1 swiftwater boat crew member per station
- 3.14 Low river levels: River gauge levels below 3.3
- 3.15 High river levels: River gauge levels above 5.0
- 3.16 Debris Filled water: Any body of water in which operations are conducted where there may be debris which could clog the intake of jet drive engines. Examples include leaves carried by the river in the fall and flooding situations.
- 3.17 Strike Team: 2 vehicles, 2 boats, 2 SWBO and 2 SWBC, one member will be a STL.
- 3.18 Routine Response Search (RRS): Searches for a body such as someone searched for previously and not found. These searches have no expectation of recovering a live person.

#### 4.0 PROCEDURE

##### 4.1 Daily

4.1a The senior RRATS Team member at Station 30 will ensure that the RRATS Team Daily Roster is completed on the S drive by 0730 hrs each day. The distribution list follows

#FRS.RRATS  
#FRS.URT  
#FRS.Assistant Chiefs  
#FRS.Battalion Chiefs  
#FRS.PSCC Supervisors  
#FRS.Safety Officers,

- 4.1b If staffing levels at either station fall below the desired station staffing level for the current shift, non-consolidated personnel will be utilized to complete desired station staffing levels. All attempts will be made to limit the movement of apparatus.



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4.1b1 Non-consolidated personnel utilized as part of response staffing will be listed on the daily lineup as such.

4.1b2 Should there be a RRATS incident dispatched these personnel will respond and check on the air as "unit xxx responding with xx personnel as part of strike team staffing". If possible personnel will respond in utility or secondary vehicles (cars, brush truck).

4.1c The RRATS Duty Officer will check the current shifts next lineup schedule to see if minimum daily station staffing levels have been met. If the minimum station staffing level has not been met Scheduling will be notified so as to correct the problem. If staffing levels cannot be met, the Duty Team Leader will be notified.

4.1d The river level and water temperature will be recorded in each stations log book at lineup. The water temperature and river level forecasts can be found on the team website under links. If the river level or weather conditions may dictate a deviation from normal procedures these possible deviations will be conveyed to personnel.

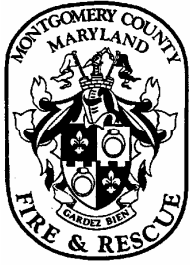
4.1e All RRATS members will be responsible for ensuring that the RRATS Duty Officer and Duty Team Leader are aware of any local flood warnings. If a flood warning exists the RRATS Pre-Deployment Policy will be initiated.

#### 4.2 RRATS response to surface water dispatch levels

4.2a Level I - The RRATS Duty Officer / Leader will be contacted for a consultation on a water related issue.

4.2b Level II - Incidents occurring on the upper Potomac or on inland bodies of water. This call type will receive the closest Strike Team and the RRATS Duty Officer / Leader.

4.2c Level III - Incidents occurring on the lower Potomac or on any Swiftwater. This call type will receive 2 Strike Teams, The RRATS Duty Officer and the RRATS Duty Leader. Each Strike Team will include an EMS unit as part of its response if possible, (this EMS unit will be separate from other MCFRS resources and may be staffed by non RRT personnel).



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- 4.2d Level IV - These incidents involve pre-positioning of personnel and equipment in anticipation of need. These incidents may also involve movement of personnel and equipment for mutual aid. Scope of response will be determined on a case by case basis.
- 4.3 RRATS response to ice dispatch levels
  - 4.3a Level I - The RRATS Duty Officer and Dive Duty Officer will be contacted for a consultation on a ice rescue issue.
  - 4.3b Level II - Incidents involving a working ice rescue. The response will be 1 Strike Team, 1 Airboat, Dive Support unit, Dive Team, Dive duty officer.
- 4.4 RRATS response to dive dispatch levels
  - 4.4a Level I - The dive duty officer will be contacted for a consultation on a dive related issue.
  - 4.4b Level II - Incidents involve a working subsurface operation. The response will be 1 Strike Team, Dive Support unit, Dive Team, all on duty URT personnel, Dive duty officer.
  - 4.4c Level III - Incidents involve a extended working subsurface operation. The response will be 1 Strike Team, Dive Support unit, Dive Team, all on & off duty URT personnel, Dive duty officer.
- 4.5 Strike Team configuration for emergency call types
  - 4.5a Inland dispatch: At least 1 Jon boat and a Strike Team capable of being split into two, two person boat teams. An Airboat may also be a consideration for this call type.
  - 4.5b Vehicle in the water: At least 1 Jon boat or sled.
  - 4.5c Low River Levels: At least 1 IRB and 1 Jon boat.
  - 4.5d High River Levels: At least 2 IRB.



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4.5e Ventilation: The airboat will be sent with 2 personnel (one will be an airboat operator).

#### 4.6 Resources for routine call types

4.6a Search, Body recovery & Public Relations Event: All routine (non-emergency) call types will take into account the safety and welfare of personnel. As such the RRATS Duty Officer & Duty Leader will consult with the DOC on the appropriateness and resources required to conduct the activity. Considerations will be weather, water level and other apparatus activity.

4.6b Ventilation: The airboat will be sent with 2 personnel (one will be an airboat operator).

#### 4.7 Required PPE

4.7a Temperature: Any time the combined air and water temperature is below 120 degrees, dry suits will be mandatory attire for operations in any water environment.

4.7b Flood waters: Any time personnel are operating in floodwaters dry suits are mandatory regardless of combined air and water temperatures.

4.7c Heat related problems: Heat exhaustion and dehydration should be anticipated when the following conditions occur.

1. Personnel are utilizing drysuits and the air + water temperature is over 150 degrees.
2. Personnel are operating in their drysuits out of the water for extended times in air temperatures above 65 degrees.