

**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES MANUAL  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**SUBJECT: OPERATIONS OP-29  
Technical Rescue Team**

**Revised: October 1, 2005**

**I. PURPOSE:**

This SOG establishes operating guidelines for the CDF/San Luis Obispo Technical Rescue Team (TRT).

**II. AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES:**

- NFPA 1670 - Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents 1999
- NFPA 1006 - Standard for Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications 2000
- FIRESCOPE ICS-SF-SAR 020-1
- FIRESCOPE ICS-US&R-120-1
- FIRESCOPE ICS US&R 120-2
- OES Urban Search and Rescue Program (Rev. 4-02)

**III. SCOPE:**

The TRT is a multi-disciplinary technical rescue team from SLO County emergency response agencies, administered by CDF/San Luis Obispo, and designed to assist with rescues beyond the scope of engine company personnel. The types of rescues include, but are not limited to, Swiftwater Rescues, Flood Rescues, Low and High Angle Rescues, Trench Rescues, near-shore Ocean Rescues (including Surf Rescues), Structural Collapse Rescues, and other technical rescues that require skills, knowledge, and equipment beyond those of initial attack resources.

**IV. DEFINITIONS:**

- A. Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) - US&R involves the location, rescue (extrication), and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces. Structural collapse is most often the cause of victims being trapped, but victims may also be trapped in transportation accidents, mines and collapsed trenches. US&R is considered a "multi-hazard" discipline, as it may be needed for a variety of emergencies or disasters, including earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, storms and tornadoes, floods, dam failures, technological accidents, terrorist activities, and hazardous materials releases. The events may be slow in developing, as in the case

*Last Reviewed by Battalion Chief Phill Veneris  
Approved by Fire Chief Dan Turner*

of hurricanes, or sudden, as in the case of earthquakes.

- B. Technical Rescue Team - A team of individuals with interdisciplinary skills in the areas of swift and flood water, ocean, surf, high-angle, trench, confined space, collapsed building rescue, and other technical rescues.
- C. US&R Type 2 Company - Total of six (6) rescuers (including leader) plus a US&R Medium tool and equipment compliment and a vehicle. At the US&R Medium Level, this company represents the minimum capability to conduct safe and effective search and rescue operations at structure collapse incidents involving the collapse or failure of reinforced and non-reinforced masonry (URM), concrete tilt-up and heavy construction. Note: personnel also capable and equipped at the Basic and Light Operational Levels.
- D. US&R Type 2 Strike Team – A combination of two (2) US&R Type 2 companies and a leader for a total of 13 personnel.
- E. Swiftwater/Flood Type 2 Search and Rescue Team (SWFR) - Total of six (6) rescuers (including squad leader) plus an OES Type 2 tool and equipment complement. The SWFR Company is capable of conducting search and rescue operations in standing or moving water where technical expertise and equipment are required. This includes managed search operations, power water craft, helicopter transport, and technical rope system qualifications.
- F. Swiftwater/Flood Type 1 Search and Rescue Team - Total of 14 rescuers (including two squad leaders and two managers) plus an OES Type 1 tool and equipment complement. This team meets Type 2, 3, and 4 requirements as well as providing ALS and personnel/equipment transportation capabilities.

**V. ATTACHMENT:**

- Attachment A - High-Low Angle Check List
- Attachment B - Confined Space Permit
- Attachment C - Trench Rescue Check List
- Attachment D - Surf Rescue Check List
- Attachment E - Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Check List
- Attachment F – Structural Collapse Check List
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**VI. POLICY/PROCEDURE:**

**Organization, Selection, and Goals**

- A. The TRT will consist of 19 individuals, including 14 CDF employees and five (5) employees from other San Luis Obispo County fire and emergency agencies. When dispatched, the TRT will respond to technical rescues to assist ongoing incident activities or to assume operations level and safety officer assignments as

an interdisciplinary team well-versed in swift or flood water, ocean, high-angle, trench, confined space, and urban search and rescues.

B. The goals of the TRT are to:

1. Meet ICS staffing requirements for two (2) US&R Type 2 Rescue Companies or 1 US&R Type 2 Strike Team. The Strike Team Leader must have successfully completed SFM Rescue Systems 1 in addition to normal Strike Team Leader prerequisites.
2. Provide input regarding ICS equipment complements for one (1) US&R Type II and one US&R Type III vehicle.
3. Meet ICS staffing guidelines for two (2) SWFR Type 2 Teams or one (1) SWFR Type I Rescue Team.
4. Provide input regarding ICS equipment complements for one (1) SWFR Type 1 Inventory.
5. Provide direction, assistance, and training to CDF and other personnel in operational and awareness level technical rescue training.
6. Provide input regarding FEMA, OES, and other grants as needed/available.
7. Maintain the skills of CDF employees by providing access to specialized training.

C. TRT members will be selected by a sub-group of the CDF Operation's Committee and approved by the Chief. Candidates for the TRT will be selected by resume review based on:

1. Leadership or extensive knowledge in one or more of the following areas: swift water, ocean, cliff side, trench, confined space, and collapsed building rescue.
2. Technical rescue instruction experience in one or more of the following areas: swift water, ocean, cliff side, trench, confined space, and collapsed building rescue.
3. Additional training, education, abilities, and/or experience that the candidate possesses that would enhance the overall capabilities of the team.
4. The ability and reliability to respond to drills, training, and technical rescue incidents throughout the county on a routine basis.

D. The Chief will designate one team member as the Team Leader. The Team Leader will designate one member as the TRT Training Officer and another as the Team Recorder. The Division Chief liaison to the TRT will be the organizational supervisor of the Team Leader.

### **Alert and Dispatch**

- A. The team will be dispatched via alpha-numeric pager by ECC. Alpha-pages will begin with the phrase "TRT respond to..."
- B. In addition to the standard response, the TRT will be automatically dispatched to the following emergencies: high-angle rescues, surf rescues, swiftwater rescues, flood rescues, trench rescues, confined space rescues, train derailments involving

- multiple train cars, and collapsed buildings (Urban Search and Rescue incidents). The team may be dispatched to low-angle rescues at the request of engine company personnel or by the ECC based on knowledge of the incident.
- C. The Incident Commander or ECC may request the assistance of the TRT, as he/she deems appropriate.
  - D. Team members may respond in private or government vehicles as appropriate. Upon responding, if possible, they will advise the ECC.
  - E. On-duty CDF personnel will not respond to a dispatch without having a replacement in place for their work assignment and their immediate supervisor's or Duty Chief's permission.
  - F. Off-duty CDF personnel may respond as appropriate and will be compensated per the MOU.
  - G. If any incident involving the TRT extends beyond the Initial Attack phase into the Extended Attack or Major Incident phase, the Team Leader and the Duty Chief will take appropriate steps to recall team members who are off duty in order to replace team members committed to engines or other assignments.
  - H. An FC-33 will be completed immediately after the conclusion of any team activation. In addition to the normal routing procedure, a copy should be sent to the CDF Administrative Battalion Chief for tracking purposes.

### **At-Scene Procedures**

- A. The first-arriving team member will immediately contact the Incident Commander and become the TRT and, in the case of responses to other jurisdictions, the CDF Agency Representative. He/she will remain in this capacity throughout the entire incident or until either reassigned by the Incident Commander or relieved by a CDF chief officer.
- B. The first-arriving TRT member will provide the ECC with a Report on Conditions and an estimation of team commitment.
- C. The first-arriving TRT member may also serve as a Technical Specialist, Team Accountability Officer, and/or Safety Officer at the direction of the Incident Commander.

### **Team Standby**

- A. The Duty Chief may special-call members of the TRT back to duty for standby, such as for the duration of declared urban and small stream flood advisory, following an earthquake, or other events with high potential for technical rescue.
- B. When the TRT or components of the TRT are placed on standby, the Duty Chief may assign the Team Leader or another qualified team member to act as the liaison between the TRT and ECC and/or Duty Chief. The Team Leader will maintain contact with team members to ensure a coordinated response to each incident as well as provide a sufficient response to new incidents.

**Training**

- A. The team will train and/or once per month as a group, on duty.
- B. After selection to the TRT, members will be expected to pass the courses below:

TRAINING	REQUIRED FOR	
• SFM Low Angle Rescue	US&R TYPE 3	
• SFM Rescue Systems 1	US&R TYPE 3	US&R TYPE 2
• SFM Rescue Systems 2		US&R TYPE 2
• SFM Confined Space Operations		US&R TYPE 2
• SFM Trench Rescue		US&R TYPE 2
• SLC Low/High Angle Rescue	SWFR TYPE 2	US&R TYPE 2
• Hazardous Materials Operations	SWFR TYPE 2	
• ICS 200	SWFR TYPE 2	
• SFM Animal Rescue Operations	SWFR TYPE 2	
• SFM Swiftwater Rescue Technician	SWFR TYPE 2	
• SLC Surf Rescue	SWFR TYPE 2	
• SLC Swiftwater Rescue Operations	SWFR TYPE 2	

- C. Team Members must annually re-certify in the above classes to perform rescues in those disciplines.
- D. The TRT Training Officer will maintain a record of types of drills and the attendance of each team member. A copy of the drill record will be sent to the CDF Training Bureau and the Team Recorder.
- E. The TRT Training Officer will submit recommendations of training needs to the Team Leader every November 1st for the annual training schedule.
- F. Documentation of initial training (copy of certification) for CDF employees will be maintained by CDF Training Bureau as well as by the TRT Training Officer.
- G. Documentation (CDF IIPP 6 or equivalent) of training for CDF employees that will re-certify the member in any of the above disciplines will be maintained by the CDF Training Bureau as well as by the TRT Training Officer
- H. Non-CDF members will maintain their records of initial and re-certification training per their department policy as well as submit a copy to the TRT Training Officer.
- I. Team members will have high priority with the Training Bureau for additional specialty rescue courses.
- J. The Team Leader and the Division Chief liaison, in coordination with the member's supervisor, will approve all training for CDF team members prior to training.
- K. The Chief must approve all TRT training outside the San Luis Obispo County.

**Other Agency Requests**

- A. Requests for the TRT by other jurisdictions within and outside of San Luis Obispo County will be placed through normal channels.
- B. Requests outside of San Luis Obispo County must be approved by the Duty Chief.
- C. The Duty Chief will be advised anytime the TRT is assigned to another agency.
- D. The Duty Chief may consider sending a TRT member as an Assistant Strike Team

Leader on all OES Engine Strike Teams expecting a US&R component to their duties. The individual will provide technical expertise to the STL as well as other duties as required.

- E. The first arriving member will give an "Updated Report on Conditions" to the ECC and continue to brief the ECC as appropriate.

### **Team Member Performance Evaluation**

The Team Leader will evaluate verbally or in writing team members on a routine basis to create a positive work environment. The evaluations may include, but are not limited to rescue skills and drill and dispatch attendance. All appropriate documentation will be forwarded to the Division Chief liaison to the TRT. The Division Chief will review all written actions of the Team Leader and will inform the Chief of significant actions or recommendations.

### **Team Recorder**

The Team Recorder will keep an accurate record of attendance to drills and incidents. He/she will ensure that the CDF Training Bureau has an accurate record of initial and re-certification training. He/she will annually submit a copy of this record to the Team Leader by February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

### **Team-Issued Gear**

Each team member will be issued the following equipment by their respective department at their department's expense:

- Personal Flotation Device (PFD) with Pig Tail
- Two-cell, water-proof Pelican Flash Light or equivalent
- Water-proof Strobe Light
- Knife
- Water Whistle
- Surf Rescue Helmet (Gath or equivalent)
- Water Rescue Helmet (Cascade White Water or equivalent)
- Rescue Buoy or Can
- Fins
- Rescue Helmet (Petzel with intrinsically-safe head lamp or equivalent)
- Throw Bag with 70 feet of rope and Carabineer
- Type 3 Full Body Harness
- Hand-Held Radio and Water-tight Radio Bag
- US&R Team Response Guidebook

Some members of the TRT may receive a department-provided Dry Suit or may purchase one of their own.