

Ice Rescue / Water Rescue

15.2300 Scope:

Boat 41 is a shared responsibility of our Police Department and Fire Departments and is not generally used for near drowning victims. The Winnebago Sheriff's department has the proper equipment to conduct near drowning rescues and should be the lead Operations Officer in such situations.

On December 2, 1993, the Winnebago County 911 Committee approved a county-wide S.O.G. for Ice Rescue (See PSD-#04) and for Water Rescue on November of 1995 (See PSD-#05-E911 User's Manual). These SOG's are updated periodically to reflect necessary changes.

In the event of an Ice Rescue Incident in the Town of Menasha, the Fire and Police Department will be dispatched FIRST, immediately followed by Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue for their Fire Department's Ice Rescue equipment.

15.2301 1st alarm assignment:

- a. Ice Rescue: Ladder 40 & Rescue 41
- b. Water Rescue/Assist: Ladder 40, Rescue 41 & Boat 41 towed by Squad 41

15.2302 Boat 41 Response:

Upon receipt of a call for Boat 41, either by dispatch, Town of Menasha Police Department or Town of Menasha Fire Department Officer, Boat 41 shall be picked up at Station 41 by an authorized Town of Menasha vehicle. Private vehicles are not to be used unless authorized by Police or Fire Department Officer because of a special circumstance. Use of personal vehicles for towing of Boat 41 shall be authorized only in emergencies where other Town vehicles are not available or out of service.

15.2303 Launch Sites:

- a. Incidents south of 441 Bridge
 - i. Use Fritse Park Ramp
- b. Incidents north of 441 Bridge
 - i. Use 9th Street Ramp

Boat 41 may be launched from alternate launching sites as required by the incident. Alternate launching sites must have the capacity for the launching of watercrafts safely and without causing injury to personnel.

15.2304 Crew and Responsibility:

Boat 41 shall launch with a crew of three. The crew should consist of at least one qualified Fire Officer, Firefighter or Police Officer who will be responsible for the safe operation of Boat 41 and safety of the other crew members and/or victims for Fire/Police Department response to incidents.

15.2305 Dress:

Turn out gear, shall not to be worn when operating Boat 41. Civilian clothes or department uniforms with soft-soled shoes are required for safe operation. A Type 1 life preserver will be worn by all crewmembers at all times while in operation or launching. Life preservers are on board and shall be placed on each crewmember before getting into the boat.

15.2306 Command Authority:

ICE: Town of Menasha Fire Department will designate the Incident Commander and work cooperatively in a Unified Command Setting. An Officer from Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue will become the "Operations Officer" and be responsible for all ice/water operations. Town of Menasha Fire Department's primary function is to provide support for the operation. Gold Cross ambulance should have been requested and when they arrive on scene they should be staged immediately.

WATER RESCUE/ASSIST: Boat 41 is not a true rescue boat and is primarily designed to provide aid and assistance as needed on a case by case basis. Boat 41 will normally not be used to assist stranded boaters unless their safety is a concern (Example- boaters who run out of fuel or have motor problems but can make it to the shoreline will normally not be assisted). The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Boat, Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue Fire Department Boat, or Husky Boat can also be requested to assist for critical rescue situations. TMFD will be Command.

15.2307 Radio Frequency on the Scene:

The radio frequency to be used shall be determined by the Officer assuming Command when the first responding unit arrives on the scene. This is a countywide procedure and should be communicated to all responding units.

15.2308 Staging:

It is imperative that a staging area be established as well as a formal stationary command post designated by the green strobe light if possible. A Town of Menasha Fire Department Officer or firefighter shall assume the Staging Officer position. All mutual aid units should be directed to staging until the Operations Officer determines the best water entry area and the necessary resources needed.

15.2309 Operation:

Boat 41 shall be operated in a safe and prudent manner at all times, per State of Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 30.

Boating Regulations:

30.65 Traffic Rules. (1) Meeting; Overtaking; Right of Way. Every person operating a boat shall comply with the following traffic rules, except when deviation is necessary to comply with federal pilot rules while operating on the navigable waters of the United States:

- (a) When 2 motorboats are approaching each other "head and head," or so nearly so as to involve risk of collision, each boat shall bear to the right and pass the other boat on its left side.
 - (b) When 2 motorboats are approaching each other obliquely or at right angles, the boat that has the other on her right shall yield the right of way to the other. "Right" means from dead ahead, clockwise to 2 points abaft the starboard beam.
 - (c) When a motorboat and a boat propelled entirely by sail or muscular power are proceeding in such a direction as to involve risk of collision, the motorboat shall yield the right of way to the other boat.
 - (d) A boat may overtake and pass another boat on either side if it can be done with safety but the boat doing the overtaking shall yield the right of way to the boat being overtaken, notwithstanding any other rule in this section to the contrary.
 - (e) A boat granted the right of way by this section shall maintain her course and speed, unless to do so would probably result in a collision.
- (2) Additional Traffic Rules. The department may promulgate such additional traffic rules as it deems necessary in the interest of public safety. Such rules shall conform as nearly as possible to the federal pilot rules.

30.66 Speed Restrictions. (1) Speed to be Reasonable and Prudent. No person shall operate a motorboat at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard for the actual and potential hazards then existing. The speed of a motorboat shall be so controlled as to avoid colliding with any object lawfully in or on the water or with any person, boat or other conveyance in or on the water in compliance with legal requirements and exercising due care.

(2) Fixed Limits. In addition to complying with sub. (1), no person may operate a motorboat at a speed in excess of the posted notice as established by regulatory markers.

(3) Prohibited Operation. Except under s. 30.69(3), no person may operate a motorboat within 100 feet of any dock, raft, pier, or buoyed restricted area on any lake at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake speed.

15.2310 Safety:

All personnel using Boat 41 at any time shall wear the life jackets provided and should be a qualified swimmer. Personnel providing shoreline assistance near the water's edge should also be provided with life jackets.

15.2311 Victim Recovery:

In the event of a body recovery incident, it is likely that the Winnebago County Sheriffs Office will become the Operations Officer.

15.2312 Town of Menasha Fire Department Role:

- a. Upon arrival establish command and work under a unified command system with other responding agencies.
- b. Confirm with the communication center that the Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue Team is enroute (Ice Rescue).
- c. DO NOT attempt rescue unless you are trained, equipped and capable of doing so.
- d. Determine the number and possible location of victims.
- e. Clear the water and shoreline of all untrained rescuers.
- f. Secure any utilities if necessary.
- g. Keep the number of responders at the waters edge to a minimum.
- h. Determine if the Winnebago County dive might be needed and request them to be put on stand-by.

15.2313 Salvage:

It is normally not recommended that Boat 41 or its crew engage in any type of salvage operation. No Fire Officer, Firefighter or Police Officer in charge of Boat 41 shall authorize or undertake any action for towing, salvage, or removal from the water, any boat or watercraft unless requested, for safety or law enforcement issues. Note -drifting boats may be anchored. (Disabled boats or watercraft are the responsibility of the owner/operator). Watercraft can be recovered if the craft will be damaged or cause further damage if no action is taken. The craft should be secured to a dock or pier and the owner contacted.