

This guideline provides North Zone Agencies procedures for rope rescue operations. It has been developed so that personnel can perform their tasks quickly and safely. All rope rescue operations, including training exercises, will be conducted following this guideline and the North Zone Training Manual. The potential for this type of incident exists due to the presence of steep rocky terrain and multi-story structures within the Zone. Most of the incidents fire personnel will encounter require the raising or lowering of an injured victim. Rope techniques have been simplified as much as possible to minimize confusion and maximize efficiency.

SIZE-UP OF A ROPE RESCUE SCENE:

The following questions must be answered enroute, or immediately after arrival, in order to assess what has already happened:

- Does your engine have the necessary equipment for the rescue?
- Do you have adequate staffing to perform the rescue?
- When and where were the victim(s) last seen? Can you see them or talk to them? Is the incident a body recovery?
- How many victims are there?

FIVE PHASES OF RESCUE:

1. **Locating:** This is basically the search for the victim. In many cases the victim's location may have already been identified. If the victim cannot be found, several rappelling operations in different areas may have to be performed to locate the victim.
2. **Evaluating the environment:** The environment must be checked for ground stability, possible anchors, and environmental hazards such as falling rocks or rain. This is to ensure rescuers do not become additional victims.
3. **Reaching the victim(s):** This is the operation devising anchors and harnesses and then climbing down to the victim.
4. **Medical assessment:** The operation of providing medical attention to the victim.
5. **Extrication:** This is the operation of moving the victim to safety. It involves raising or lowering the victim to a stable place for further medical treatment and/or transportation.

ROPE RESCUE SAFETY:

- Minimum of gloves and helmet shall be worn during rope exercises.
- Don't become another victim by making hurried decisions.

- Make sure you have a “**BOMB PROOF**” anchor with any system.
- Yell “**ROCK**” if a rock falls.
- Utility lines are not to be used for transporting people.
- Training rope and equipment shall be used for training only. Personnel are not to be suspended from non-designated lifeline.
- A Safety Officer, familiar with rope operations, is to be appointed before starting a rope rescue.
- The On-Call Battalion Chief/Duty Chief is to be notified on all rope rescue incidents.

CARE & MAINTENANCE:

- Rope equipment shall be logged in the rope log after every use.
- Care & maintenance for rope equipment shall be done following the guidelines that are prescribed in the North Zone Training Manual.