

ICE and WATER RESCUE

Fire Department Town of Menasha
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40.01 Scope:

The Town of Menasha Fire Department is certified to the technician level according to NFPA 1670. Due to a lack of equipment and resources, emergency responses are different for Little Lake Butte Des Morts than the remaining bodies of water in the town.

Boat 40 is a shared responsibility of the Town of Menasha Police Department and Fire Department. Boat 40 will serve as a back up to Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue and the Winnebago County Sheriff Department for all emergency calls on Little Lake Butte Des Morts.

The Winnebago County 911 Communication Center follows guidelines for dispatching fire department units in Winnebago County to water and/or ice rescues. Those guidelines can be found at both stations in a binder labeled Winnebago County Communications Center User Guide.

40.02 DEFINITIONS

Ice Picks: hand held, spring loaded picks used to assist in self rescue out of water onto ice.

PFD: United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device.

RDC: Rapid Deployment Craft, deployable water and ice rescue craft.

Reach, Throw, Row, Go: Strategic order of rescue from low risk to high risk.

40.03 LITTLE LAKE BUTTE DES MORTS

SOG's 40.02 thru 40.16 apply to all emergency responses on Little Lake Butte Des Morts.

40.04 1ST ALARM ASSIGNMENT:

In the event of a Water or Ice Rescue incident on Little Lake Butte Des Morts, TMPD, TMFD and Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue will be dispatched. Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue will respond with Boat 35 and Boat 32. In the event of an ice rescue they will also bring their ice rescue equipment with them.

TMFD First Alarm Assignment:

Station 40: Ladder 40, Command 40

Station 41: Rescue 41, Command 41

Standby Units: Engine 40, Engine 2- 40, Engine 41, Engine 2- 41

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40.05 Boat 40 Response:

Boat 40 will only respond to special requests for assistance or as a back-up for Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue and Winnebago County Sheriff Department.

If Boat 40 is requested by either the communication center, Town of Menasha Police Department or a Town of Menasha Fire Department Officer, Boat 40 shall be picked up by an authorized Town of Menasha vehicle. Private vehicles are not to be used unless other Town vehicles are not available or out of service and then only with permission of a Police or Fire Department Officer.

40.06 Launch Sites:

- A. Incidents south of 441 Bridge:
 - 1. Use Fritse Park Ramp
- B. Incidents north of 441 Bridge:
 - 2. Use 9th Street Ramp

Boat 40 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.

40.07 Crew and Responsibility:

Boat 40 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 40. This also includes the safety of the other crew members as well as any victims.

40.08 Dress:

Turn out gear, shall not to be worn when operating Boat 40. Civilian clothes or department uniforms with soft-soled shoes are required for safe operation. A PFD will be worn by all crewmembers at all times while the boat is in operation or launching. PFDs are on board and shall be placed on each crewmember before getting into the boat.

40.09 Command Authority:

The Town of Menasha Fire Department will designate an 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. The Town of Menasha Fire Department's primary function is to provide support for the operation. Gold Cross ambulance should also be requested and staged immediately when they arrive on scene.

Boat 40 is not a true rescue boat and is primarily designed to provide aid and assistance as needed on a case by case basis. Boat 40 will normally not be used to assist stranded boaters. Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue Fire Department Boat or the Winnebago County Sheriff's shall be dispatched for critical rescue situations. TMFD will assist as Incident Command and provide support.

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40.10 Radio Channel on the Scene:

The radio channel to be used shall be determined by the Incident Commander. This is a countywide procedure and should be communicated to all responding units.

40.11 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. Any mutual aid units if requested should be directed to the staging area until the Operations Officer determines the need for additional resources.

40.12 Operation:

If Boat40 is utilized it shall be operated in a safe and prudent manner at all times, per State of Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 30, boating regulations.

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.
- (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.

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- (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.

40.13 Safety:

All personnel using Boat 40 at any time shall wear the PFDs and should be a qualified swimmer. Personnel providing shoreline assistance near the water's edge should also be provided with life jackets.

40.14 Victim Recovery:

In the event we are requested to assist with a body recovery incident, it is likely that one of the law enforcement agencies will be in charge.

40.15 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 Boat is enroute.
- 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 water's edge to a minimum.
- H. Determine if the Winnebago County dive might be needed and request them to be put on stand-by.

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40.16 Salvage:

Boat 40 or its crew shall not be engaged in any type of salvage operation. No fire officer, firefighter or police officer in charge of Boat 40 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.

40.17 ALL BODIES OF WATER EXCEPT LITTLE LAKE BUTTE DES MORTS:

SOG's 40.17 thru 40.23 apply to all emergency responses to any body of water in the town other than Little Lake Butte Des Morts.

40.18 FIRST ALARM ASSIGNMENT:

In the event of an emergency the senior officer shall determine based on the dispatch, if additional resources are needed. Gold Cross shall be requested to stage in the event EMS is needed. The senior officer shall also consider requesting a dive team from the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department.

Responses to the West Side:

Station 40: Ladder 40, Engine 2- 40, Command 40

Station 41: Rescue 41

Standby Units: Engine 40, Engine 41, Engine 2- 41, Command 41

Responses to the East Side:

Station 40: Ladder 40

Station 41: Rescue 41, Engine 2- 41, Command 41

Standby Units: Engine 41, Engine 40, Engine 2- 40, Command 40

40.19 GENERAL SAFETY:

- A. At no time shall any fire department personnel go out onto ice or into water without a Stearns ice rescue suit with ice picks in it and a tether line attached to them.
- B. A back-up team of at least two firefighters with Stearns ice rescue suits with ice picks in it, and a tether line attached shall be put into place on shore as soon as possible whenever there are fire department personnel on the ice or in the water.
- C. Any personnel on scene that is standing within 15' on the shoreline shall wear a USCG approved PFD (Personal Floatation Device) and a ice/water rescue helmet.
- D. At no time shall anyone who has not completed classroom and hands-on ice rescue training in accordance with NFPA 1670 be off shore on ice or in water.

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- E. All Stearns ice rescue suits have an accountability tag on them that states "Ice Rescue 40" or "Ice Rescue 41". Firefighters who don these suits for a call shall assume these tags as their accountability tags and follow normal department accountability procedures.
- F. All rescue operations should be considered and executed in order from *low risk* to *high risk*. The proper order shall be "Reach, Throw, Row, Go".
- REACH with whatever means possible (pike pole, ladder, etc.).
 - THROW with a rope bag.
 - ROW out to the victim with the Rapid Deployment Craft (RDC)
 - GO onto the ice or into the water to rescue the victim.

40.20 RESPONSE PROCEDURE:

- A. In the event of a request for assistance with ice rescue, the first two trained firefighters entering the station shall don the two Stearns ice rescue suits and secure the equipment bag and rescue noodle. The remainder of the firefighters shall don turnout gear.
- B. The first arriving officer on scene shall assume command (or working command) and immediately perform a size-up of the situation. The size-up shall include:
- a. An attempt to gain verbal contact with the victim.
 - b. An attempt to determine how many victims there are by talking to the victim and/or bystanders.
 - c. An assessment of the need for additional resources.
 - d. Finding out where the victim(s) entered the ice if it is on ice.
 - e. Recognition of hazards (i.e. bad ice, weather, access, etc.)
 - f. A determination on whether it is a rescue or recovery.
 - g. Development of an action plan.
 - h. A determination on which method of rescue to use (Reach, Throw, Go).
- C. If the determination is made to try a Reach or Throw rescue, the crew from the first arriving apparatus shall use pike poles and/or rope bags to assist in bringing the victim to shore.
- D. The second arriving apparatus that has ice rescue equipment on it shall begin setting up for a Row or a Go rescue, depending on the situation, in the event that the Reach and/or Throw attempts fail.
- E. If the initial determination is made to perform a Row or a Go rescue, the crew from the first arriving apparatus shall immediately begin setting up and preparing tether lines and attaching them to the rescuer(s) or the RDC. For a Row rescue, 2 rescuers will deploy the RDC. For a Go rescue, one rescuer with a rescue noodle shall be used for a conscious victim; two rescuers with a

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rescue noodle shall be used for an unconscious victim. The remainder of the crew (including the driver operator) shall tend the tether line(s) wearing PFDs and helmets. If it is dark outside and lighting is needed, the driver operator may be used to set up lighting.

F. Upon arrival of the second apparatus that has ice rescue equipment on it, the crew shall immediately begin preparing two rescuers in Stearns ice rescue suits to act as a back-up crew. The remainder of that crew shall assist in tending the tether lines for the first rescue crew.

G. In the event that there is more than one victim, the back-up crew shall become the rescue crew when the initial rescue crew has the first victim to a safe area.

H. The remaining apparatus crew (including the driver operator) shall assist in tending the tether lines as needed. This crew shall also be prepared to assist with EMS.

I. When the victim(s) are all on shore, fire department personnel shall assist Gold Cross with any needs in regards to EMS care.

J. A PAR shall be conducted once all emergency operations are complete.

40.21 RECOVERY OPERATIONS:

If the determination is made by incident command that it will be a recovery, the fire department will work with law enforcement to assist in recovering the body. In the event we are requested to assist with a body recovery incident, the fire department will also work with law enforcement to assist in the recovery.

40.22 ANIMAL RESCUES:

In the event of a request for an animal rescue, a risk assessment will be done to determine if an attempt should be made. At no time shall fire department personnel be put at great risk to rescue an animal.

The senior officer on scene shall make a determination if a rescue attempt will be made. If it is determined that a rescue attempt will be made, rescuers shall avoid direct contact with the animal. Poles should be used to assist the animal onto the ice or the ice should be broken so the animal can swim to shore.

All animals that are recovered shall be turned over to the humane society.

40.23 TRAINING:

NFPA 1670 requires refresher training every two years to retain technician certification. The fire department training division shall provide ice and water rescue training on an annual basis during department drills.

It will be the responsibility of the firefighters to ensure that they complete the required training to remain technician certified.

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