

Section 7039

(October 2002)

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FLOOD & WATER RESCUE OPERATIONS

7039

(October 2002)

- 1) Water rescues present themselves in three basic forms, which include:
 - a) Static rescues in still water conditions.
 - b) Dynamic rescues in swift or moving water.
 - c) "Blue water" incidents in ocean waters.

- 2) Flood events typically involve CDF personnel working long hours on sandbagging boils and levees and related activities. Also, in spite of proper training and equipment, water rescues may also become necessary as a result of flood work.

Flood work requires that all employees working near the water wear approved personal flotation devices.

In flood operations, all of the conditions for water rescue may apply, with the addition of a more complex command and control structure. Widespread flooding usually will involve local, state and federal agencies. In these situations CDF personnel will be assisting these other agencies. While CDF resources may include an Incident Command Team, the team will be working at the direction of the agency (or agencies) having jurisdictional authority. It is important for CDF personnel to determine the agency (or agencies) having jurisdiction, what type of command structure is in effect, and what is expected from department resources and personnel. All department policies and practices still govern CDF employees on these types of incidents.

DISPATCH PROCEDURE

7039.1

(October 2002)

Requests for CDF resources to respond to flood or water rescue events will come through the ECC dispatch process, OES mission tasking, or directly from jurisdictional agencies under the terms of inter-agency agreements. Schedule "A" (CDF as local government) responses result if such responses are within the scope of services CDF provides under contract. In either case, standard dispatch procedures will apply. Units may respond to local requests under local plans.

CDF OVERHEAD SUPPORT

7039.2

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When responding to resource requests from other agencies, CDF will provide an Agency Representative. Other overhead support may also be provided, if requested, up to and including an entire an Incident Command Team.

REIMBURSEMENT

7039.3

(October 2002)

All added costs associated with flood operations should be documented using the FC-40 Incident Cost Report program. Establish who will be responsible for CDF costs incurred upon request, if agreements or procedures do not already exist. The requesting agency should provide all necessary equipment and supplies. CDF will not be responsible for payment of, nor responsible to bill other agencies for CDC, CYA or CCC costs. These agencies shall pursue cost reimbursement through their own channels.

STANDARD EQUIPMENT COMPLEMENT

7039.4

(October 2002)

Adequate personal protective equipment shall be used when employees are involved in any water-related incidents. Employees will not enter the hazard area unless they have the proper level of protection for the area they are working in. Employees are not to use personal protective equipment unless they have been properly trained and are comfortable with its use.

For personnel operating in the hazard zone, the minimum personal protective equipment provided shall include the following:

Awareness*** – Personal Floatation Device, Throw bags

Operations – Personal floatation device, helmet, throw bags, wet suits/dry suits (brown water), knife and whistle.

Technician – Personal floatation device, helmet, throw bags, wet suits, wet suits/dry suits, knife, whistle, rope hardware and water craft.

The following equipment list is the recommended minimum water rescue equipment that should be carried on department emergency vehicles.

Engines – Three personal floatation devices, two throw bags.

Crew Transports - One personal floatation device, two throw bags.

Staff vehicles/Utilities – One personal flotation device, one throw bag.

*** If the Awareness level training has been given, and with approval of the Unit Chief, an additional two flotation devices can be carried on the Crew Transports assigned in that unit.

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(see Forms or Forms Samples)