Grant County Fire Protection District 3

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

TACTICAL ACTION GUIDELINES

1. NUMBER: 9.5.3

2. SUBJECT: ***Search and Rescue***

3. POLICY: It is the policy that companies and teams follow a safe procedure when search and rescue is deemed necessary in single or multiple story buildings, residential or commercial.

4. SCOPE: This Policy and Procedure is applicable to all personnel of Grant County Fire District 3.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES:

   A. The District Fire Chief is responsible for seeing that this policy is carried out.

   B. The Incident Commander, Company officers and Search and Rescue teams shall follow this procedure when deemed necessary for Search and Rescue in structures.

6. PROCEDURE:

   A. The Incident Commander shall determine the degree of danger to the building occupants, formulate a plan considering resources available, size of the building and number of occupants.

   B. The officer shall determine which floors or areas are of the highest risk to occupants and assign search and rescue crews or teams to those floors or areas first. Priority order:

      1. Highest: Fire floor or area
      2. Next: Floor area immediately above fire
      3. Lowest: Top and remaining floors

   C. The company officer shall assign a crew, teams or companies to work in pairs as a minimum to accomplish the search.

   D. The company officer shall require search personnel to wear full protection clothing, S.C.B.A., pass device, and have a forcible entry tool and radio. If no radio is available, a lifeline or hose line is required.

E. The search team shall use the accountability system as adopted by this district. The crew, teams or company shall pass accountability cards to the officer in charge of group, division, sector or floor prior to entering the building.

F. The search team shall enter the building as directed by the officer, stay together, and maintain communication with their partner and officer.

1. The search team shall communicate entering and exiting the building to the officer in charge of the search.
2. The search team should search on hands and knees when visibility is obstructed checking for obstruction, holes in the floor and other hazards.
3. Whenever possible, the search team should begin their search on the right wall to allow a rescue team to locate the search team quickly in a case of entrapment.
4. The search team should mark doors or rooms searched with latch straps, wrapping straps on doorknob or hardware.
5. When a victim is found, the search team should leave an object to identify the last room searched, immediately remove the victim to a safe location, and report removal of the victim to the officer.
6. The officer or team leader shall inspect the S.C.B.A. air quantity before returning the team to search.
7. If a search team member becomes trapped or injured, the search team should:
    a. Stay together as a team, radio for help, and conserve air.
    b. If unable to communicate, activate P.A.S.S. device or low air warning bell.
    c. As a last resort, send a search team member to get help.