

Brockport Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline

Title: Boat Usage

SOG # 11.8

Effective Date: 3/31/2025

Fire Chief Signature:

Timothy Smith Fire Chief

Purpose: This standard operating procedure/guideline addresses procedures detailing operation of the district boat, qualifications of personnel, requests for watercraft support, operating watercraft, use of special equipment.

Procedure:

- All Operators Must Have the NYS Boating Safety Certificate or equivalent from the US Coast Guard.
- **Personal Safety:** Personnel are expected to ensure proper safety equipment is available prior to departure from land.
 - They are also expected to bring with them any equipment necessary to provide the services required for that situation. Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Use: The greatest risk to rescue personnel is that of drowning. The only adequate protection is by wearing a properly fitting, USCG approved type III (or better) PFD. Fire District personnel shall always wear an approved PFD while:
 - Riding in or on any watercraft while moving under power.
 - Engaged in any emergency response on or near the water.
 - Engaged in any operation in the water.
 - In any situation where the member is at risk for falling into the water.
 - Personnel are expected to know their own swimming ability limitations, and take appropriate measures to ensure their own safety, as well as the safety of any potential victims.
- **EMS/Rescue Operations:** When responding to EMS or rescue incidents, fire personnel will ensure that appropriate EMS equipment is loaded on to the boat prior to departing in the water. This equipment will ensure that proper treatment can be initiated if indicated on a patient or victim while in the boat prior to transferring the patient to shore units
 - Initial size up should include the following:
 - Determine if incident is rescue or recovery.
 - Who is the Pointer? Does she/he need assistance?

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EMS/Rescue Operations Cont.

- Consider the following factors: •
- Access to water
- Proximity to shore
- Number of victims
- Weather conditions/ air and water temperature
- Technical Rescue Team/Dive Team
- Additional resources
- Other hazards- fire, HazMat, submerged objects
- Water “Rapid Intervention Team”
- Rescue options from watercraft should be considered and executed from low risk to high risk:
 - Reach: The first method of water rescue is to reach the victim with an object such as a pole, backboard, ladder, etc. Either the victim can pull themselves or be pulled to safety.
 - Throw: If reach is not possible then throw an item that will float such as a PFD, throw ring, or a rope bag to the victim. The device thrown should be attached to a rope so the victim can be rescued

A Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) is a statement describing a recommended process and/or providing information to assist in guiding performance and/or behavior in the completion of an operation and/or standard in a safe and consistent manner. It is expected that departmental SOPs should be followed on a regular basis, however, it is recognized that conditions may arise which have not been anticipated. In such cases departmental personnel shall exercise their own initiative using common sense, professional judgment and discretionary powers as conditions warrant achieving safe, effective and efficient mitigation of that condition.