

**RESOLUTION 2025-009**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE IMMOKALEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT ADOPTING DISTRICT POLICIES SECTIONS 304 – URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR), 309 – STAGING, 311 – ELEVATOR ENTRAPMENT, 313 – SWIFTWATER RESCUE AND FLOOD SEARCH AND RESCUE, 314 – CONFINED SPACE RESCUE RESPONSE, 316 – TRENCH RESCUE, 322 – CHILD ABUSE, 325 – ADULT ABUSE AND 606 -HEARING CONSERVATION AND NOISE CONTROL**

The undersigned, being all of the Fire Commissioners of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Immokalee Fire Control District, a governmental entity, by this instrument at a meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, hereby consent to the following resolutions:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Immokalee Fire Control District desires to adopt the following policies, attached hereto as Attachments 1 through 9:

1. Section 304 – Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) (Attachment 1)
2. Section 309 – Staging (Attachment 2)
3. Section 311 – Elevator Entrapments (Attachment 3)
4. Section 313 – Swiftwater Rescue and Flood Search and Rescue (Attachment 4)
5. Section 314 – Confined Space Rescue Response (Attachment 5)
6. Section 316 – Trench Rescue (Attachment 6)
7. Section 322 – Child Abuse (Attachment 7)
8. Section 325 – Adult Abuse (Attachment 8)
9. Section 606 – Hearing Conservation and Noise Control (Attachment 9)

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE IMMOKALEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT** that the following District Policies are adopted:

1. Section 304 – Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)
2. Section 309 – Staging
3. Section 311 – Elevator Entrapments
4. Section 313 – Swiftwater Rescue and Flood Search and Rescue
5. Section 314 – Confined Space Rescue Response
6. Section 316 – Trench Rescue
7. Section 322 – Child Abuse
8. Section 325 – Adult Abuse
9. Section 606 – Hearing Conservation and Noise Control

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner Gunthner  
who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner  
Halman, and the Vote was as follows:

Commissioner Joseph Brister  
Commissioner Robert Halman  
Commissioner Donald Gunthner  
Commissioner Bonnie Keen  
Commissioner Patricia Anne Goodnight

JB  
RH  
DG  
BK  
PA

Duly passed and adopted on this 17th day of April, 2025.

Board of Commissioners of the Immokalee Fire Control District

By: Joseph Brister  
Joseph Brister, Chair

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## Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

### 304.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Florida Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Response Systems as resources for disaster response.

### 304.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Immokalee Fire Control District to utilize the FEMA and Florida USAR resources in the event of an urban disaster, as appropriate.

### 304.3 RESOURCES

USAR is a multi-hazard discipline and may be used for a variety of disasters, including hurricanes, earthquakes, typhoons, storms, tornadoes, floods, dam failures, technological accidents, terrorist activities and hazardous material releases.

USAR task forces have four areas of specialization:

- (a) Searches - Finding victims who are trapped after a disaster
- (b) Rescues - Freeing victims, including safely digging victims out of collapsed concrete or metal
- (c) Technical - Applying specialized structural knowledge to help make rescues safe for the rescuers
- (d) Medical - Caring for victims before and after a rescue

#### 304.3.1 FEDERAL RESOURCES

If a disaster warrants national USAR support, FEMA may deploy task forces within six hours of notification and can provide additional teams as necessary to support the Immokalee Fire Control District's efforts to locate victims and manage recovery operations.

The following resources are generally available from the FEMA USAR Response System:

- Air Search Team (fixed-wing)
- Airborne Reconnaissance (fixed-wing)
- Canine - Avalanche/Snow
- Canine - Disaster Response
- Canine - Land/Cadaver
- Canine - Water
- Canine - Wilderness
- Canine - Wilderness Tracking and Trailing
- Cave Search and Rescue Team

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### *Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)*

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- Collapse Search and Rescue Team
- Mine and Tunnel Search and Rescue Team
- Mountain Search and Rescue Team
- Radio Direction Finding Team
- Swiftwater and Flood Search, and Dive Rescue Teams
- USAR Incident Support Team
- USAR Task Force
- Wilderness Search and Rescue Team

More information about the specific capabilities and sustainability of USAR resources may be obtained on the FEMA website.

#### 304.3.2 FLORIDA RESOURCES

The following Florida USAR Task Forces (FL-TF) are authorized and available resources in the state pursuant to Florida emergency management law (§ 252.35, Fla. Stat.):

- FL-TF1 and FL-TF2 are Type I FEMA USAR teams located in Miami-Dade County.
- FL-TF3 is a Type I USAR team located in the St. Petersburg, Tampa and Hillsborough County areas.
- FL-TF4 is a Type II USAR team located in the Orange County, Orlando and Seminole County areas.
- FL-TF5 is a Type II USAR team located in Jacksonville.
- FL-TF6 is a Type II USAR team located in Southwest Florida.
- FL-TF7 is a Type III USAR team located in Tallahassee.
- FL-TF8 is a Type III USAR team located in the Alachua County, Gainesville, Marion County and Ocala areas.
- FL-TF9 is a Type III USAR team located in Volusia County.

There are also additional resources identified as Type II Technical Rescue Teams, Type III Collapse Search and Rescue Teams and Light Technical Rescue Teams authorized and available throughout Florida.

## Staging

### 309.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

An incident scene can quickly become congested with emergency equipment if the equipment is not managed effectively. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for staging at emergency incidents.

### 309.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Immokalee Fire Control District to safely stage resources at emergency incidents.

### 309.3 RESOURCE STAGING

Staging areas are locations designated within the incident area to temporarily position resources that are available for assignment. Resource staging at emergency incidents will be conducted using the procedures, guidelines and positions consistent with the district's Incident Command System (ICS).

As incident resources grow, the Incident Commander (IC) should identify a staging area manager to maintain the staging area resources so they are ready for assignment. At the conclusion of the incident, the staging area manager should demobilize units with the approval of the IC.

#### 309.3.1 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STAGING

When establishing a staging location and conducting staging activities Immokalee Fire Control District personnel should consider the following:

- (a) During initial attack operations or on smaller, short-term incidents, identifying and selecting a primary staging location for incoming units should be based primarily on placing incoming resources in a safe location while providing for their rapid deployment when needed. Generally, resources will stage one block from the incident until assigned by the IC.
- (b) During extended attack or multiple-alarm incidents, the IC should establish a secondary staging area location early and assign a staging area manager. Additional location factors should be considered when identifying and establishing staging areas:
  1. The secondary staging area should not affect incident operations and should be large enough for the incident resource needs. When possible, staging areas should be pre-planned and identified to cause minimal disruption to traffic flow, business activity and scheduled community activities.
  2. Public property should be utilized, if possible, as opposed to private property. Whenever private property, church property or commercial property is utilized, the IC or an authorized designee should, when practicable, contact the owner, administrator or property manager for permission to use the property prior to

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establishing a staging area. If any of these properties are utilized, the staging area should be configured to create the least possible disruption, including traffic flow in and around the property. The same applies to school property; however, in addition, the Public Information Spokesperson should notify local media. The notification should emphasize that the school property is being used to support an incident occurring away from the school and that the school is not involved in the emergency.

#### **309.4 STAND BY THE AERA OPTION**

The stage-away option should be used in any incident where there may be a violent encounter. A violent encounter should be anticipated in, but not limited to, the following categories of calls for service:

- Shootings or shots-fired
- Stabbings
- Civil disturbance
- Criminal gang activity
- Attempted suicide
- Domestic disputes, including family fights
- Unknown assault
- Bomb incidents

It is the policy of the Immokalee Fire Control District to use a nonstandard and defensive response profile when responding to calls for service involving known or suspected violent subjects. When responding to calls involving known or suspected violent subjects, district members should take the following actions:

- (a) Whenever possible, the Communications Center should determine if violent subjects are involved in any call for service and, if so, include that information in the initial dispatch. The responding units should be advised to stage away from the scene. Any time the Communications Center or any of the responding crews receive additional information indicating that violent subjects are at the scene of a call, the response should be upgraded to a stage-away incident.
- (b) The officer of the first-in responding unit will normally identify a staging point for all responding units. The staging point should be located two or more blocks away from the incident scene, out of direct line of sight of the incident, and should not require that the responding units drive by the incident to reach the staging point. The officer should also confirm with the Communications Center that law enforcement is responding to the incident.
- (c) All responding units should acknowledge the call to stage-away and confirm the staging location via radio while en route to the incident. All units should avoid driving

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by or through the line of sight of the incident until it is determined to be safe to enter the scene.

- (d) All units should report "on-scene staging" upon arrival at the staging point.
- (e) All units should remain staged away from the incident scene until notified that law enforcement has determined that the scene is safe to enter or until reliable information is received confirming that no violent subjects remain at the scene.

In the event that the first-in unit arrives at an incident scene and encounters unanticipated violence or violent subjects, the officer or senior member of that crew should immediately notify the Communications Center of the circumstances and request law enforcement support. All other responding units should be directed to stage-away unless members of the first-in unit determine it is safe for additional personnel to respond directly to the scene.

## Elevator Entrapments

### 311.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safe and effective rescue of people who may become trapped in an elevator.

### 311.2 POLICY

People trapped in an elevator are typically not in danger unless there is a medical emergency or fire. It is the policy of the Immokalee Fire Control District to ensure the safe extrication of people trapped in an elevator while also providing for the safety of firefighters during the operation.

### 311.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Fire Chief or the authorized designee shall establish guidelines for personnel entering elevator shafts and for the use of commercial elevator technicians for emergency and non-emergency extrications.

The Fire Chief or the authorized designee shall identify district-approved rescue procedures and appropriate applications. Procedures that have the potential to cause damage to private property should be avoided if reasonably practicable.

Fire prevention personnel are responsible for tracking elevator entrapment responses, identifying problematic installations and working with building owners and vendors to resolve further responses.

### 311.4 PROCEDURE

On-scene personnel should consider the following:

- Is the elevator inoperative?
- If so, are people inside?
- What is the condition of the people inside?
- Has an elevator repair person been notified and what is the estimated time of arrival?
- What is the location of the inoperative elevator? Is it between floors or at a landing?
- What is the type of elevator? Is it hydraulic or cable?
- Where is the elevator equipment room? (Generally, above for a cable elevator and below for a hydraulic elevator.)
- Can necessary lockout/tagout actions be accomplished prior to rescue activities?

Various methods may be utilized to extricate people from an inoperative elevator. Use of a specific method should be based on the unique circumstances of each incident and the expertise of the fire personnel on-scene. Elevator entrapment rescue procedures typically include, but are not limited to:



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### *Elevator Entrapments*

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- Lockout/tagout procedures to ensure continued stability of the elevator.
- Moving the elevator car.
- Use of an adjacent elevator car.
- Forcing the elevator doors open.
- Breaching the elevator shafts.
- Use of roof or side emergency exits.

#### **311.5 TRAINING**

The Division Chief of Training should ensure that written procedures with diagrams are available for each elevator entrapment rescue procedure, including hydraulic or cable elevators and elevators with multiple-door configurations. The Division Chief of Training is responsible for ensuring that all personnel are properly trained in district-approved elevator entrapment rescue procedures.

# Swiftwater Rescue and Flood Search and Rescue Responses

## 313.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidance for operating at a swiftwater or flood search and rescue incident.

## 313.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Immokalee Fire Control District to utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) for managing swiftwater or flood search and rescue incidents.

## 313.3 PROCEDURE

Upon notification of a potential water rescue incident, district members and the Communications Center personnel are authorized to order and should dispatch or request the appropriate specialized water rescue resources immediately. Ordering of resources should not be delayed pending the verification of a water rescue situation or the confirmation that a victim has been seen or located.

Rescuers conducting search and rescue operations around flood waters, and particularly around swiftly moving water, are confronted with a unique set of challenges and face risks not encountered in other types of rescue operations. Operating in a swiftwater environment requires specialized knowledge, training and equipment to ensure the safety of both rescuers and victims. Tools, equipment and procedures routinely used in other types of rescue situations may not be appropriate when confronting a swiftwater rescue and may even exacerbate the situation and increase risks to the safety of rescue personnel.

Responding personnel and specialized units should follow ICS methods and procedures upon arrival at the incident. This includes a safety briefing for all responders to ensure the development of situational awareness of the area, knowledge of potential hazards for rescuers and specific strategic objectives for the rescue, in addition to tactical objectives and assignments for each responder.

District members should apply the following guidelines when responding to swiftwater or flood search and rescue incidents:

- (a) Members should not wear structural firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., turnouts, bunker gear, bunker boots) or wildland fire PPE when responding to, or participating in, a swiftwater or flood search and rescue incident.
- (b) Only properly trained members currently certified for in-water rescues should approach or enter any body of water, whether still or moving, and only when sufficient equipment and trained personnel are available to safely conduct the operation. All

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### Swiftwater Rescue and Flood Search and Rescue Responses

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members actively involved in any swiftwater rescue event should don a personal flotation device and head protection before commencing any rescue efforts.

- (c) Surface support personnel who are not properly trained, certified and equipped for water entry may utilize ropes, throw-bag ropes, rescue rings, floatation devices or other appropriate equipment to attempt water rescues, as long as the attempt does not require the member to enter the water in any way.
- (d) District members should use extreme caution when parking or positioning fire apparatus alongside swiftly moving water and should remain vigilant for any signs of erosion or changing conditions that could threaten apparatus or personnel at the incident. Whenever practicable, vehicles should be backed into position and face away from any expanding incident in case egress becomes necessary.

## Confined Space Rescue Response

### 314.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance on various confined space entries pursuant to federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and the Division of the State Fire Marshal (DSFM) rules (29 CFR 1910.146; Rule 69A-62.001, F.A.C.).

#### 314.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Attendant** - An individual stationed outside one or more permit spaces to monitor the authorized entrants and who performs all duties assigned.

**Confined space** - A space that:

- (a) Is large enough and so configured that a person can bodily enter and perform work.
- (b) Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit.
- (c) Is not designed for continuous human occupancy.

**Entry** - The action by which a person passes through an opening into a permit-required confined space. Entry includes ensuing work activities in that space and is considered to have occurred as soon as any part of the entrant's body breaks the plane of an opening into the space.

**Entry permit** - Written or printed document that is provided by the District to allow and control entry into a permit-required confined space to perform work in the space.

**Entry supervisor** - The person responsible for determining if acceptable entry conditions are present at a permit space where entry is planned, for authorizing and overseeing entry operations, and for terminating entry as required.

**Permit-required confined space** - A confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics:

- (a) Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere.
- (b) Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant.
- (c) Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section.
- (d) Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

### 314.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Immokalee Fire Control District to establish permit-required confined space incident response guidelines in compliance with applicable Florida rules and regulations and required training and equipment to reasonably ensure members' safety while they are performing permit-required, confined space rescues (29 CFR 1910.146; Rule 69A-62.001, F.A.C.).

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### Confined Space Rescue Response

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#### **314.3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

District procedures shall meet the standards and requirements set forth in this policy.

District standards and procedures will include, but are not limited to:

- (a) The requirements of an entry permit.
- (b) Training requirements for members entering into confined spaces.
- (c) Equipment requirements.
- (d) Notification to members entering a confined space of any known or suspected hazards that the member may face during entry and any other information necessary to enable the attendant to monitor safe entry by the member.
- (e) Requirements for members entering confined spaces.
- (f) Requirements of the entry supervisor.
- (g) Requirements for members who are assisting others within the confined space.

#### **314.4 PROCEDURES**

District members should be trained to identify and measure atmospheric hazards within confined spaces. Reasonably practicable attempts at self-rescue or nonentry rescue should be made prior to any entry.

District members should adhere to federal OSHA and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) guidance when performing a confined space rescue.

Any time there is questionable action or lack of movement by the worker inside the confined space, a verbal check should be made. If there is no response, district rescue personnel should conduct a survivability profile and a risk analysis, based on the information documented on the entry permit.

##### **314.4.1 PRECAUTIONS**

No ignition sources should be introduced into the confined space when atmospheric hazards are attributable to flammable or explosive substances or to lighting and electrical equipment.

Members should perform continuous atmospheric monitoring during all confined space rescue operations. If atmospheric conditions change adversely, members should exit the confined space until appropriate precautions for any new hazards are developed and implemented.

Work time should be closely monitored because heat stress emergencies may be caused by a warm atmosphere inside a confined space.

##### **314.4.2 HAZARD EVALUATION/PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

If members of the District respond to an incident requiring permit-required confined space entry, a written hazard evaluation shall be performed. The hazard evaluation shall include, but is not limited to:

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### Confined Space Rescue Response

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- (a) Recognition, determination and declaration of the situation as a permit-required confined space incident, including the date, time and location.
- (b) Denial of entry to unprotected persons.
- (c) Assessment of all readily available confined space documentation (e.g., Safety Data Sheets), any existing permits, plans or blueprints of the space.
- (d) Assessment of the purpose of the entry, number of victims, locations and injury conditions.
- (e) Discussions with witnesses, a supervisor and other sources of information.
- (f) Assessment of any current or potential space hazards, in particular, any hazards that led to the necessary rescue.
- (g) Measures used to isolate the space and eliminate or control the hazards.
- (h) Communications procedures used by entrants and attendants.
- (i) Determination and declaration if a body is recovered or a victim is rescued.

#### **314.5 TACTICAL GUIDELINES**

##### **314.5.1 PRIMARY ASSESSMENT**

Upon arrival, the first-in company should:

- Establish command and provide a report of conditions.
- Assess immediate hazards to rescuers, contact witnesses or otherwise look for clues as to the cause of the confined space emergency.
- Conduct a survivability profile of the victims, including the number, location and condition of the victims and how long they have been trapped.
- Establish communication with the victims, if possible.
- If applicable, locate any confined space permit that has information about the space.
- Determine whether the operation will be a rescue or a recovery.

##### **314.5.2 SECONDARY ASSESSMENT**

After completing the primary assessment, the first-in company should:

- Determine the type of confined space and what type of products are used or stored in the space.
- Identify any known hazards (e.g., electrical, mechanical, stored energy).
- Determine the stability of the confined space and conduct a hazardous materials size-up.

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### Confined Space Rescue Response

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#### 314.5.3 INCIDENT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Determine if adequate technician-level trained personnel are on-scene to safely complete the rescue.
- Determine whether the proper equipment is at the scene to safely complete the rescue (e.g., atmospheric monitoring equipment, intrinsically safe lighting and communications, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), ventilation equipment, victim removal equipment).
- Establish a perimeter and ventilation, if needed.
- Assign resources, which should include a hazards officer.
- Ensure all utilities are locked-out, including electrical, gas and water.
- Evaluate the structural stability of the confined space and surrounding area.
- Remove or restrict the flow of any product in or flowing into the confined space.
- Ensure all entry and backup personnel are wearing the proper level of personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., helmet, gloves, proper footwear, eye protection, appropriate skin protection, a Class III harness and safety tag line, SCBA) and any additional equipment deemed necessary for the safety of personnel, given the totality of the circumstances.
- Ensure the appropriate method of extrication is determined and constructed.
- Ensure district-approved procedures are followed to perform the rescue.

#### 314.5.4 VICTIM ASSISTANCE

- If possible, the entry team should bring a supply of breathable air for the victims.
- Rescuers shall not remove their SCBA and give them to the victims.
- If indicated and practicable, complete C-spine precautions should be taken.
- After treatment for immediate life-threatening injuries, the victims should be packaged appropriately for extrication (e.g., backboard, rescue basket).

#### 314.5.5 VICTIM TRANSFER

Immediately after reaching the point of egress, the victims should be transferred to awaiting medical personnel.

#### 314.6 TERMINATION OF THE RESCUE

At the conclusion of the rescue, the Incident Commander should:

- Account for all personnel.

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### *Confined Space Rescue Response*

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- Ensure all tools and equipment used for the rescue/recovery are removed (unless there has been a fatality, then consideration may be given to leaving tools and equipment in place for investigative purposes).
- Ensure proper decontamination procedures are implemented if personnel or equipment have been contaminated during the operation.
- Determine if a formal critical incident stress debriefing or a routine debriefing and Post-Incident Analysis (PIA), in accordance with the Post-Incident Analysis Policy, is warranted and, if so, implement as appropriate.



## Trench Rescues

### 316.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Trench rescue operations involve a complex system of shoring, digging and special resources, and can be a critical danger to fire personnel. The purpose of this policy is to minimize member exposure to hazardous conditions during trench rescues through the safe and efficient management of operations that are in compliance with the Florida Trench Safety Act (29 CFR 1926.650 et seq.; § 553.60, Fla. Stat. et seq.).

#### 316.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Excavation** - Any man-made cut, cavity, trench or depression in the ground.

**Trench** - A narrow (in relation to length) excavation made below the surface of the ground that is generally deeper than it is wide and is not wider than 15 feet (29 CFR 1926.650; § 553.60, Fla. Stat. et seq.).

### 316.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Immokalee Fire Control District to adopt and maintain a written response program with standardized procedures and relevant training to minimize the exposure to hazardous conditions to rescue personnel during trench or excavation rescues.

### 316.3 PROCEDURES

Secondary collapse must always be considered as a potential hazard during trench rescues. Suffocation, extreme pressure and trauma can all occur due to the weight of a cave-in. There may be times when it is necessary to place the safety of the firefighter above the rescue of a victim who clearly has no chance of survival.

- (a) Using the Incident Command System (ICS), the first-in company shall attempt to determine the following:
  1. Who is in charge at the site and what happened?
  2. How many victims are trapped and where are they located?
  3. Is a rescue possible or is this a body recovery?
  4. What kind of material is covering the victims (e.g., dirt, sand, rock)?
- (b) An extrication and safety officer should be assigned to:
  1. Monitor the status of all personnel involved in the rescue.
  2. Monitor the site for signs of potential secondary collapse (e.g., surface cracks, shoring with signs of bending, falling debris).
- (c) A hazard zone should be established within a 50-foot perimeter around the incident site using ICS methods. Apparatus, equipment, traffic and staging distance should be set at a distance that will minimize vibrations at the site.

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*Trench Rescues*

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- (d) Minimally, the equipment required to be available for rescue personnel to enter a trench or excavation should include (29 CFR 1926.651; § 553.60, Fla. Stat. et seq.):
  - 1. A self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
  - 2. A safety harness or line, or a basket stretcher.
  - 3. A helmet.
- (e) When determining whether the trench or excavation is safe for emergency responders to enter, the following will be considered (29 CFR 1926.651; 29 CFR 1926.652; § 553.60, Fla. Stat. et seq.):
  - 1. Adequate ventilation has been established.
  - 2. When ventilation is in place, the air quality is being periodically tested.
  - 3. If water accumulation is a factor, protection from water hazards is in place.
  - 4. Adequate protection for people working in the trench or excavation, in the form of shields, supports or sloping, and benching systems have been established.
- (f) If the rescue effort is protracted, personnel may need to be rotated and/or additional alarms requested for appropriate relief.

## Child Abuse

### 322.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the reporting of suspected child abuse.

### 322.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Immokalee Fire Control District to ensure the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) is notified of suspected child abuse as required by law.

### 322.3 MANDATORY NOTIFICATION

Members of the Immokalee Fire Control District shall notify DCF when they have reasonable cause to believe that a child is abused, abandoned, neglected or in need of supervision or care (§ 39.201, Fla. Stat.).

The Medical Examiner shall be notified in all instances where abuse is suspected in the death of a child (§ 39.201, Fla. Stat.).

For purposes of notification, abuse includes the physical, mental or sexual abuse or injury of a child, or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental or emotional health to be significantly impaired. Abandonment includes a situation by which a parent or legal custodian of a child has made no significant contribution to the child's care and maintenance. Neglect includes the failure to provide necessary food, clothing, shelter or medical treatment for a child, or to permit a child to remain in an environment that may significantly impair the child's physical, mental or emotional health (§ 39.01, Fla. Stat.).

#### 322.3.1 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Notification should occur immediately, or as soon as practicable, by contacting the Florida Abuse Hotline via telephone, fax or the Web-based reporting system. If the reporting member is an Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic, the notification shall contain the reporting member's name (§ 39.201, Fla. Stat.).

The district Emergency Medical Services supervisor should be notified of the incident as soon as practical. A written report shall be prepared and, if requested, forwarded to law enforcement or DCF.

If a child is being transported to a medical facility, the receiving center triage nurse or physician shall be notified of the situation upon the child's arrival.

Failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect by a mandated reporter is a felony and may also result in discipline (§ 39.205, Fla. Stat.).

### 322.4 CONFIDENTIALITY

Reports of child abuse are confidential and will only be released in accordance with the Release of Records Policy.

## Adult Abuse

### 325.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides members of the Immokalee Fire Control District with guidance regarding when notification is to be made to the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) of suspected abuse of certain adults.

#### 325.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Adult abuse** - Any offense or attempted offense involving violence or neglect of an adult victim when committed by a person responsible for the adult's care, or any other act that would mandate reporting or notification to a social service agency or law enforcement.

### 325.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Immokalee Fire Control District to assist victims of adult abuse by making the proper notifications to those responsible for investigating these matters.

### 325.3 MANDATORY NOTIFICATION

Members of the Immokalee Fire Control District shall notify DCF when they have reasonable cause to believe that a vulnerable adult has been or is being abused, neglected, or exploited (§ 415.1034, Fla. Stat.).

For purposes of notification, abuse includes acts and omissions, including threatened acts, by a relative, caregiver, or household member that cause or are likely to cause significant impairment to a vulnerable adult's physical, mental, or emotional health. Abuse also includes self-neglect, or the failure of a caregiver to provide necessary food, clothing, medical services or medication, shelter, and supervision for the vulnerable adult, or financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult or any adult age 65 or older (§ 415.102, Fla. Stat.; § 517.34, Fla. Stat.).

For the purposes of defining adult abuse, a vulnerable adult is a person who is 18 years of age or older whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily living or to provide for his/her own care or protection is impaired due to mental, emotional, sensory, long-term physical or developmental disability or dysfunction, brain damage, or the infirmities of aging (§ 415.102, Fla. Stat.).

#### 325.3.1 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Notification should occur as follows (§ 415.1034, Fla. Stat.):

- (a) Immediately, or as soon as practicable, by contacting the Florida Abuse Hotline via telephone, fax or the Web-based reporting system.
- (b) To the extent possible, the report should contain:
  1. The name, age, race, sex, physical description and location of each adult alleged to have been abused, neglected or exploited.
  2. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the adult's family members.

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3. The name, address and telephone number of each alleged perpetrator.
4. The name, address and telephone number of the caregiver of the adult, if different from the alleged perpetrator.
5. The name, address and telephone number of the person reporting the alleged abuse, neglect or exploitation.
6. A description of the physical or psychological injuries sustained.
7. The actions taken by the reporter, if any, such as notification of the criminal justice agency.
8. Any other information available to the reporting person that may establish the cause of abuse, neglect or exploitation that occurred or is occurring.

The district Emergency Medical Services supervisor should be notified of the incident as soon as practical. A written report shall be prepared and, if requested, forwarded to law enforcement or DCF.

If a person is being transported to a medical facility, the receiving center triage nurse or physician shall be notified of the situation upon the person's arrival.

Failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected adult abuse by a mandated reporter is a misdemeanor and may also result in discipline (§ 415.111, Fla. Stat.).

#### **325.4 RELEASE OF REPORTS**

Information related to incidents of adult abuse or suspected adult abuse shall be confidential and may only be disclosed pursuant to state law and the Release of Records Policy.

Requests for information about an incident referred to law enforcement should be referred to the investigating agency.

# Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Training

## 606.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish and maintain hearing conservation and noise control training for members exposed to potentially harmful noise levels.

## 606.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Immokalee Fire Control District to promote member health and safety by establishing hearing conservation and noise control training and requiring member participation. The hearing conservation program shall include parameters for permissible noise exposure limits, monitoring guidelines, audiometric testing procedures, hearing protection equipment and training, and documentation of the district's efforts.

## 606.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The following procedures shall comprise the hearing conservation and noise control training for the Immokalee Fire Control District. The Division Chief of Training shall be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate members are enrolled in the training. Lieutenants shall be responsible for ensuring that members attend scheduled testing and training.

### 606.3.1 NOISE EXPOSURE LIMITS

The Immokalee Fire Control District shall ensure that each member is provided with protection against the effects of noise exposure any time the sound levels exceed those limits determined to be safe.

### 606.3.2 HEARING PROTECTORS

If control measures fail to reduce sound levels to an acceptable level for the amount of exposure, the District shall provide personal protective equipment to all members subject to the noise exposure and require that it be used. Employees shall have the opportunity to select hearing protectors from a variety provided by the District.

The District shall ensure proper initial fit and correct use of hearing protectors and shall provide training in the use and care of the equipment.

### 606.3.3 HEARING PROTECTOR ATTENUATION

The Immokalee Fire Control District shall evaluate hearing protector attenuation for the specific noise environments in which the protector will be used. Evaluation methods shall be consistent with those described in available best practice documents. The District will provide more effective hearing protectors where necessary.

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#### **606.3.4 MONITORING**

The Immokalee Fire Control District shall monitor noise levels in the workplace by either area monitoring or personal monitoring that is representative of a member's exposure, to enable the proper selection of hearing protectors.

#### **606.3.5 AUDIOMETRIC TESTING PROGRAM**

The Immokalee Fire Control District shall provide audiometric testing and evaluation to all members who are exposed to noise levels in excess of those considered safe. The District shall provide baseline audiometric testing (preceded by at least 14 hours without exposure to workplace noise) within six months of the first noise exposure, and annually thereafter.

Each member's annual audiogram shall be compared to that member's baseline audiogram to determine if the audiogram is valid and if a standard threshold shift has occurred.

All audiometric testing shall be conducted by properly trained audiometric professionals.

#### **606.4 TRAINING RECORDS**

The Division Chief of Training shall be responsible for maintaining records of all hearing conservation program training provided to members. Records should include, but are not limited to:

- (a) The dates of the training sessions.
- (b) A list of topics or a summary of the content of the training sessions.
- (c) The names or other identifiers and job titles of the members who received the training.
- (d) The names, certificate numbers and qualifications of persons conducting the training.
- (e) Copies of baseline and annual audiometric testing and evaluation documents.

The Division Chief of Training shall maintain the training records in accordance with established records retention schedules.