

Salt River Fire Department Operating Guidelines

Canal Rescue

December 2002

208.07A

1 of 1



Purpose:

To provide the safest, most efficient rescue operating on a canal rescue incident.

Procedures:

Size Up:

1. Get as much information from Dispatch as possible.
2. Place engines on both sides of the canal.
3. Determine if this is a rescue or recovery – go into appropriate mode.
4. Command should find the Police liaison as soon as possible.
5. Address the scene as **“Canal Right”** and **“Canal Left”** facing downstream.

Initial Response:

1. Place a ladder in the water for entry and exit immediately.
2. All personnel in PFD’s and helmets.
3. Rescuer with rope in hand enters the water with window punch and seatbelt cutter.
4. One person downstream with throw bag for secondary rescue.

Extended Response:

1. Command established – should not be involved in rescue/recovery.
2. Establish safety lines across the canal.
3. Additional ladder in water (both sides).
4. Remove stokes baskets from both engines.
5. If needed, secure vehicle from floating downstream.
6. Assign a Safety Officer, if possible.

Support Response:

1. Call for additional fire resources.
2. Call early for a swift water team from Mesa or Rural/Metro.
3. Establish safe landing zones.
4. Contact PIO for media contact.
5. Address rehabilitation – heat/towels.