



INCIDENT DIRECTIVE

Swiftwater

Version 1.0
Valid from: 01/05/2009

INCDIR 24.1.5

1. PURPOSE

- (a) To provide the requirements for swiftwater rescue operations.

2. APPLICATION

- (a) Applies to fire officers who may attend swiftwater rescue incidents.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

- (a) The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) is the lead agency for swiftwater rescue incidents as per the Department's State Rescue Policy.
- (b) QFRS often performs swiftwater rescues within floodwater environments. In Queensland, floodwater will nearly always involve swiftwater situations.
- (c) The following definitions apply:
- *Swiftwater* can be defined as any water moving down a gradient and flowing at a speed in excess of 2km/h.
 - *Floodwater* can be defined as water that overflows and inundates an area.
- (d) QFRS has three (3) levels for swiftwater rescue, which includes working within flooded environments:
- Swiftwater Floodwater Rescue Awareness - personal safety, size-up, resource requirements.
 - Level 1 Swiftwater Floodwater Rescue Technician - hazard awareness, personal safety and shore-based rescue.
 - Level 2 Swiftwater Floodwater Rescue Technician - incorporates level 1 and further techniques, awareness and advanced techniques that enable in-water rescues.

4. DIRECTIVE

4.1 Operations

- (a) QFRS fire officers who have received the awareness package in swiftwater rescue have basic skills and specialised support and resources must always be requested.
- (b) These fire officers will:
- dress appropriately and be mindful of personal safety at all times.
 - carry out incident size-up and isolate the area.
 - not undertake in-water rescues.

QFCI

JM

Date: 12/05/11

Exhibit Number: 349

- request specialised and sufficient resources as assessed.
- not work within three (3) metres of a watercourse unless wearing appropriate PPE.
- perform passive bank searches as necessary (ensuring that accountability is maintained and the buddy system adopted).
- perform a support role on the arrival of specialised support.

(c) QFRS Level 1 Swiftwater Floodwater Rescue Technicians will:

- carry out shore based rescues only.
- not undertake in-water rescues.
- not work within three (3) metres of a watercourse unless wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- request suitable resources if in-water rescue is required.

(d) QFRS Level 2 Swiftwater Floodwater Rescue Technicians will:

- be responded to manage operations at swiftwater rescue incidents.
- assist the Incident Controller (or QFRS Commander) as a specialist to develop and/or revise the Incident Action Plan.
- conduct incident risk assessment.
- develop and manage the implementation of operation plans.
- undertake shore-based, and/or in-water swiftwater rescue as required.

- (a) The Incident Controller (or QFRS Commander) and the operational crews need to be aware of each other's levels of competency in order to allocate personnel effectively and in the most appropriate manner at swiftwater incidents.

4.2 Mobilisation and Deployment

- (a) Mobilisation to an identified swiftwater rescue incident will occur as per the Fire Communication Centre Directives (FCCD) and the regionally agreed mobilisation arrangements.
- (b) When regional resources are exhausted, assistance from other regions and/or the Special Operations Unit may be requested. All requests for assistance are to be made to the State Operations Coordination Centre and coordinated with the Special Operations Duty Officer (refer Incident Directive 25.1).
- (c) Under deployment conditions, a minimum of two (2) Level 2 Swiftwater Floodwater Rescue Technicians are to be mobilised with Level 1 Swiftwater Floodwater Rescue Technicians (for support) to all swiftwater rescue incidents; or to standby at areas identified as a risk.

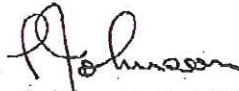
5. QFRS RELEVANCY

INCDIR 24.1.6	URBAN		RURAL OPERATIONS	RURAL FIRE BRIGADES				
	Full time	Part time	Full time	Special	iZone	Village	Rural	Primary Producer
Applicable	✓	✓						
Not Applicable			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
May Apply *								

* This document may apply to some Rural brigades. Check with your Senior Officer for additional information.

REFERENCES

The Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System
 Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990
 QFRS Training Material
 QFRS Operational Guides
 State Rescue Policy


 Lee A Johnson AFSM MIFireE
 Commissioner
