

CHAPTER II Operations
SUBJECT 3 Emergency Operations
TOPIC 17 Water Emergencies

A. SCOPE

To define Operational Procedures at Water Emergencies. To establish standard and safe procedures for the operation of Fire Department watercraft during water emergencies.

B. PRIORITIES

1. Provide the safest possible environment during water emergencies for both rescuers and those citizens in need at the time.
2. Ensure the proper water emergency response protocol for the particular emergency.

C. SAFETY

1. All Fire Department watercraft shall be manned by members thoroughly trained in boat and water operations.
2. All members on Fire Department boats shall wear a PFD (Personal Floatation Device) at ALL times. All members assisting in the water emergency and within 10 feet of the water MUST wear a PFD.
3. Boats should not be used during dangerous ice conditions, excessively high and rapidly moving waters, or excessive debris exists on the water at the time of the emergency as determined by the first responding boat Officer. The Incident Commander has final authority for the overall operation.
4. Use extreme caution when approaching boats or barges that are on fire, leaking fuel, or that have spilled their cargo. Do not allow fire boats to enter spill areas on water.
5. When dispatched for hazardous materials spills or leaks on river, use the same precautions as outlined for hazardous materials incidents on land.

D. RESCUE OBJECTIVES:

1. When victims are reported to be in the water, every effort must be made to reach them as quickly and safely as possible.
2. The Incident Commander (this could be the highest ranking Officer) should determine which type of boat to be used, depending on the type of rescue incident, location of victim(s), and location of boat. The Incident Commander has final authority for the overall operation and is advised to consult with the member with the highest level of water response training on the scene – This will usually be a member of Boat 3 or a member of a Heavy Rescue Company.

E. FIRE FIGHTING

Fire Department Boat 3 may be used to combat waterfront facilities fires such as Oil/Chemical facilities, boat harbor/marinas, or floating restaurants moored to the shore. Boat 3 can be used as a source of water supply when hydrants are not available. Boat 3 will be dispatched to fires involving pleasure boats, excursion boats, towboats, and barges within the jurisdiction of the Fire Department. (Boats moored to the Kentucky shoreline are not considered in our jurisdiction and would require a mutual aid request). The Zodiac boats will only be used for rescue of victims in the water and as a water based RAT unit during fire fighting operations.

CAUTION:

Cincinnati Fire Fighters are not trained or qualified to perform on-board offensive fire attacks of watercraft that are not moored to shore. All fire fighting by the fire boat will be defensive only from on-board the fire boat. **DO NOT** board a boat on fire that is not moored to shore. If any offensive fire attack is to be performed, it must be a shore based attack with backup lines and a secured source of water.

F. DISPATCHING FOR RIVER EMERGENCIES

The dispatchers will attempt to provide the following information:

1. Type of emergency (Fire, Spill, Rescue, etc.).
2. Location, by land address or landmark if possible. The only location available may be by river mile marker. River Mile marker is preferred by USCG.
3. Size and type of vessel involved, or material that may be spilled.
4. Attempt to notify all other agencies that require notification of river incidents, and advise Incident Commander of notifications.

G. DROWNINGS NOT INVOLVING BOAT RESCUE - REFER TO CURRENT EMS PROTOCOLS

H. ICE AND WATER RESCUES

1. Ice and water rescues shall be performed at the direction of the qualified in-charge Heavy Rescue members with the overall approval of the Incident Commander.
2. No member of the CFD should ever perform an in-water rescue unless they are specifically trained and qualified to perform such rescues. In-water rescues will only be performed by Heavy Rescue members certified by the CFD.

I. UNDER WATER SEARCH AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS

1. The Hamilton County Underwater Search and Recovery Team is responsible for body recovery operations. They are accessed through the Hamilton County Dispatchers.
2. The Cincinnati Fire Department will assist the Hamilton County Search and Recovery Team by providing logistical support (Air Supply, Ropes, Boats, etc.), and manpower as required for body recovery operations within the corporate limits of the City of Cincinnati.

J. WATER EMERGENCIES:

1. Firefighter Safety:
 - The Incident Commander shall make the determination if the water conditions (water height and flow) will safely support water operations.
 - All firefighters aboard a Cincinnati Fire Department boat shall wear a PFD at all times. Zodiac crews shall also wear a PFD and approved water helmet. The Zodiac crews shall wear the approved surface water suits as deemed necessary and appropriate.
 - Fire Clothes shall **NOT** be worn or carried on any CFD boat or when operating within 10 feet of the water.
 - Firefighters operating within 10 feet of the water during a water emergency shall wear a PFD.
 - All fire companies are issued four PFD's and four rescue throw bags. The PFD's and throw bags shall be carried on the apparatus at all times. The whistles on the PFD's shall be used as a warning device and to get the attention of all rescuers in the area.

2. In all water responses the following positions shall be staffed:

- **Incident Command** – Responding District Chief, Special Operations District Chief or highest ranking Officer
- **Upstream and Downstream Spotters** – The spotter can be a single firefighter or an entire company. The spotter must have a radio on the assigned Fire ground channel. The spotter's responsibility is to observe the river or tributary for any hazards that may adversely affect the safety of the operation and alert Command of the potential danger. The size of the waterway and the rate of flow of the water will determine the appropriate distance to place the spotters upstream or downstream from the incident.
- **Downstream Safety** – The downstream safety will consist of at least two firefighters with a radio and throw bags. These firefighters will be positioned downstream of the emergency in the event a victim or rescuer travels downstream. The Downstream Safety may have to act as spotters for river traffic approaching the scene from downstream. On the Ohio River, the downstream safety will be a Zodiac Boat.

3. Communications:

- Each Cincinnati Fire Boat has an 800 MHz River Interoperability Radio (RIR) assigned. The radio will be mounted in a charger on the vehicle responsible for towing the boat or in the pilot house of Boat 3. The radio can be identified by the orange band on the face of the radio.
 - When responding or training on the Ohio River, the Boone County Dispatch Center must be notified by phone (859-371-1234). When training or patrolling on the river, the fire company shall advise Boone County dispatch by telephone - Identify who you are ("Cincinnati Zodiac 23"), the reason you are on the river (Training), and the time frame you will be operating. When dispatched and responding to an emergency on the Ohio River, Cincinnati Fire Dispatch shall notify Boone County Dispatch of the response and what Cincinnati Fire Department river assets are responding. When the boats are in the water, the boats shall inform Boone County Dispatch that they are on the river using the RIR.
 - When operating in any capacity on the Ohio River the River Interoperability Radio (RIR) must be on board the boat. The RIR will provide communications capability between all entities operating on the Ohio River. All entities operating on the Ohio River will communicate via channel A-1 on the RIR. (This is also HCMA Channel 26 (H-10) – on the standard CFD radio)

- When transmitting on the RIR, identify the department name first – “Cincinnati Zodiac 23 prior to any message.
- The RIR is designed for boat-to-boat communications across all jurisdictions. This will allow communications to all other river response assets including but not limited to Covington Fire, Boone County Water Rescue, Anderson Twp. Fire, United States Coast Guard, and any other response entity on the river.
- Boone County Dispatch will only monitor the RIR when units are active on the River.
- Cincinnati Fire Dispatch will assign HCMA 26 (position H-10 on regular 800 MHz radios – A-1 on the Orange Boat RIR) as the fire ground channel for all Ohio River emergencies. The Fire Boats will need to take the RIR and a CFD issue radio aboard the boats. The RIR radio is NOT capable of scanning between HCMA 26 and CFD Main Dispatch. A CFD fire ground channel can be requested by the Incident Commander however the CFD boats should only be required to monitor channels HCMA 26 and Main Dispatch. The Incident Commander will still be required to continually update Cincinnati Fire Dispatch regarding the incident on the CFD Main Dispatch Channel. All Cincinnati Fire Department dispatch procedures will remain in place.

Marine Radio (Boat 3, Zodiacs and District Chiefs)

The Marine radio installed on Boat 3 and the Marine radio portables carried by the Zodiacs and District Chiefs can monitor Marine Channel 16 – the National Marine Distress calling frequency - and communicate directly to the vessel in distress. Any information obtained should be re-transmitted over the RIR channel Zone A1 (HCMA 26) to all in-water responding units. Marine channel 13 can be utilized to communicate with barge and commercial traffic on the river.

4. Boat Resources:

Boat 3 – Housed at the 3’s quarters. Ladder 3’s Officer shall be responsible for Boat 3. Boat 3 is the only CFD boat that is classified to tow a stranded or disabled boat. Ladder 3 is the assigned company for all Boat 3 dispatches.

Zodiac 14 – Housed at the 14’s quarters. Squad 14’s Officer shall be responsible for Zodiac 14 (Respond with Heavy Rescue 14)

Zodiac 17 – Housed at the 17’s quarters. Ladder 17’s Officer shall be responsible for Zodiac 17. Qualified members in the house shall make up a response company for Zodiac 17. The remaining members shall make up the other company in the house and respond if dispatched.

Zodiac 23 – Housed at the 23’s quarters. Ladder 23’s officer shall be responsible for Zodiac 23. Qualified members in the house shall make up a response company for Zodiac 23. The remaining members shall make up the other company in the house and respond if dispatched.

Zodiac 9 – Carried on-board Heavy Rescue 9 at all times. ZB-9 is a fully inflatable Zodiac Boat. ZB-9 will respond with HR-9.

Special Note:

- Due to the ease of mobility and speed of deployment the Zodiac boats can be in the water and on scene for life safety purposes much sooner when Boat 3 is not docked. **Therefore, whenever Boat 3 is on the trailer in quarters or out of service (OOS) an additional Zodiac boat resource will be added to the normal dispatch as listed.**

5. **Boat Staffing (In Water):**

Boat 3 – A minimum of four personnel shall staff Boat 3 for all water emergency responses.

Zodiacs – 9, 14, 17 and 23 shall be optimally staffed with a crew of two qualified and trained members in the boat during water emergency operations – a boat operator and a rescuer. A maximum of three qualified and trained members may staff the boat however the need for a second rescuer must be justified and will reduce the victim capacity of the boat.

Boat 3 shall be dispatched to all Ohio River Emergencies.

- **Boat 3 Commander shall be the lead Company Officer and may request additional water emergency resources as needed.**

6. **The priorities for a Water Emergency shall be:**

1. Life Safety (Including Fire Fighter Safety)
2. Fire Control
3. Property Conservation

7. **Boat Fires on the Ohio River:**

Response – Boat 3 and the closest two Zodiac Boat, plus one Engine, one Ladder, two Heavy Rescues and one District Chief. (The Special Operations District Chief shall also be notified and will respond if available).

Actions:

Life Safety – The first arriving boat shall concentrate initial efforts on boat based rescue of victims in the water. Do not enter the water to perform victim rescue. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) shall be placed on the victims as soon as possible. If both Boat 3 and a Zodiac boat are on-scene, the primary objective of the Zodiac boat will be victim rescue and fire fighter safety while Boat 3 performs fire control measures as necessary. Victim rescue and fire fighter safety are the highest priorities. The second arriving Zodiac boat shall assume the position of downstream safety. The ladder company shall be assigned as the upstream spotter and the Engine will perform shore based support.

Fire Control – After all endangered victims are rescued or in the process of rescue, Boat 3 may initiate a DEFENSIVE fire attack while remaining aboard Boat 3 at all times. **At no time should a Cincinnati Fire Fighter board a boat on fire that is not moored to the shore.**

➤ **Large Marine Vessel Fires:**

Any interior fire fighting on large vessels shall only be conducted from the shore with the attack and back-up fire lines attached to a fire pumper and a secure water supply.

- Large marine vessels on fire and moored to the shore may require a structural fire compliment in addition to the River Response at the discretion of the Incident Commander.

When a boat is moored to the shore and on fire, the Zodiac boat shall be positioned in the water on the down river-side of the boat in the event anyone should fall into the water. The Zodiac boat shall remain a safe distance away from the boat on fire and pay vigilant attention to the operations being conducted on the boat. The Zodiac boat will be used as a water-based RAT Unit. The second arriving Zodiac Boat shall assume the position of the downstream safety.

Property Conservation - Once the fire has been extinguished the disabled boat may be towed out of the navigational channel to the closest appropriate mooring. (This may be a dock or simply tying the boat to a tree on the shore.) Do not cross the navigational channel. Boat 3 should tow the disabled boat to the nearest shore. In the event the disabled boat begins to take on water it shall be abandoned immediately. Only Boat 3 should tow a stranded or disabled boat.

8. **Stranded Boater:**

Response – Boat 3 and closest Zodiac Boat, one Engine, Two Heavy Rescues and one District Chief.

Life Safety – The first arriving boat shall determine the hazard to occupants of the involved boat and make the determination as to whether to have the occupants board the fire boat. All occupants shall be immediately placed in PFD's. The first arriving boat will size-up the situation and determine resource needs. The Zodiac boat shall assume the downstream safety position. The Engine will be assigned the upstream spotter.

Property Conservation – The first arriving boat shall make the determination as to whether the boat can be safely towed to shore and the location to which the boat will be towed. The boat should be towed out of the navigational channel to the closest appropriate mooring. If at any time the stranded boat becomes a danger to others it shall be abandoned immediately. Only Boat 3 should tow a stranded or disabled boat.

9. Victim in the River or Threatening to Jump into the River:

Response – Boat 3, closest three Zodiac boats, one Engine, one Ladder, Two Heavy Rescues, one Medic Unit, one ALS supervisor and one District Chief (The Special Operations District Chief shall also be notified and will respond if available) .

Life Safety - The first arriving boat shall concentrate initial efforts on boat based victim rescue. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) shall be placed on the victims as soon as possible.

Responding boats shall place the boats in the water at the closest convenient location. The third arriving Zodiac Boat shall assume the position of the downstream safety.

The Ladder, second-due Heavy Rescue and District Chief shall respond to the incident location. The first due Zodiac equipped - Heavy Rescue shall deploy the Zodiac into the water. The Engine will be assigned as the upstream spotter.

The Medic Unit and ALS supervisor shall stage at a location to be determined by the District Chief.

Water Rescues may also be land-based rescues performed at the direction of the first arriving Heavy Rescue with the approval of the Incident Commander.

10. Victim in tributary water (Mill Creek, Duck Creek, Little Miami, Flooded areas):

- May include Mutual Aid request to other tributaries
- Mutual Aid Incident Commander has authority for overall operation.

Response – Closest two Zodiac boats, one Engine, one Ladder, two Heavy Rescues, one Medic Unit, one ALS supervisor and one District Chief. (The Special Operations District Chief shall also be notified)

Engine Company responsibilities: 1 member as an upstream spotter with a radio and 2 members downstream as safeties The downstream spotters shall each be equipped with two throw bags.

Life Safety - The first arriving boat shall concentrate all initial efforts on boat based victim rescue. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) shall be placed on the victims as soon as possible.

- Water Rescues on tributaries may be land-based rescues performed at the direction of the first arriving Heavy Rescue with the approval of the Incident Commander.

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K. MILE MARKER LOCATIONS:

Listed below are approximate mile marker locations on the Ohio River (Companies assigned boats have a complete list)

| MILE | OWNER | LOCATION | TYPE OF FREIGHT | RAIL CONNECTION | REMARKS |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 461.0 R | River Downs | 4301 Kellogg, Cincinnati, OH | N/A | N/A | |
| 461.9 | I-275 Bridge (Twin Hwy) | | | | |
| 462.0 R | Eldorado St | Cincinnati, OH | N/A | N/A | |
| 463.5 R | Little Miami River | Cincinnati, OH | N/A | N/A | |
| 464.3 R | Tucker Marine, Inc. | Cincinnati, OH | Repairs | N/A | |
| 465.0 R | Lumsden St. | Cincinnati, OH | N/A | N/A | |
| 465.7 R | Queen City Terminal | 3806 Kellogg Cincinnati, OH | Fuel Oil, Liquid Fertilizer, Petro Chemicals | Conrail | Three Mooring Cells and 2 Dolphins |
| 465.8 R | Arcadian Chemical Corp. | Cincinnati, OH | Liquid Fertilizer | N/A | 2 mooring cells |
| 466.5 R | Schmidt Field | Cincinnati, OH | N/A | N/A | |
| 468.4 R | Noramco | Cincinnati, OH | Steel Products | N/A | Permanently moored barge |
| 469.5 | I-471 Bridge | | | | |
| 470.0 R | Public Landing | Cincinnati, OH | | | |
| 470.2 L | Licking River | | | | |
| 470.8 R | Hilltop Ready Mix Concrete | 511 W. Water St., Cincinnati, OH | Stone, Sand, Gravel | N/A | |
| 471.0 | I-75 Bridge | | | | |
| 471.6 R | Cincinnati Bulk Terminal | 895 Mehring Way, Cincinnati, OH | Coal, Iron Ore | B&O | 2 Mooring Cells |
| 471.9 R | Cincinnati Bulk Terminal | 895 Mehring Way, Cincinnati, OH | Grain | B&O | 2 beached and filled barges |
| 472.1 R | Cincinnati Bulk Terminal | 895 Mehring Way, Cincinnati, OH | Steel Products | N/A | |

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|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| 472.4 R | Cumberland-Elkhorn Coal Co. | Cincinnati, OH | Coal, aggregate, Vernal freight | N/A | |
| 472.5 R | Mill Creek | | | | |
| 473.3 L | McGinnis Inc. Marine Service | 4 Adela Way, Ludlow, Ky | N/A | N/A | Harbor towing & Barge handling |
| 474.0 R | Union Oil | Cincinnati, OH | Petroleum Products | B&O | Permanently moored barge |
| 474.2 L | BP Oil Co. | Bromley, KY | Bulk Petroleum | N/A | Floating Dock, 4 Dolphins |
| 474.3 R | UNO-VEN Co. Ind. Inc. | Cincinnati, OH | Bulk Cement | N/A | |
| 474.4 R | Consolidated Grain & Barge | 3164 Southside Cincinnati, OH | Grain | B&O and C&O | |
| 474.6 R | Holnam Inc. | 3270 Southside, Cincinnati, OH | Steel, Aggregate, Coal | C&O | |
| 474.9 R | Mose Cohen & Sons | Cincinnati, OH | Processed Steel | N/A | 2 sunken & filled barges |
| 475.0 R | Southside Ave. City Boat Ramp | Cincinnati, OH | | | |
| 475.1 R | Southside River Rail | Cincinnati, OH | Liquid fertilizer, Caustic Soda, Molasses | B&O | |
| 475.3R | I. Deutch & Sons | Cincinnati, OH | Steel, Aluminum & Scrap metal | N/A | 2 permanently moored barges & 3 dead men |
| 475.5 L | ITAPCO | Ludlow, Ky | Petroleum Products | N/A | Pipelines |
| 476.2 R | Ashland Petroleum Co. | Cincinnati, OH | Petroleum Products | B&O | |
| 476.4 R | Kosmos Cement Co. | 200 Barkley, Cincinnati, OH | Cement | B&O | |
| 476.7 R | Tresler Oil (Ashland Div.) | Cincinnati, OH | Petroleum, Petro Chemicals, and other Chems. | B&O and C&O | |
| 477.1 R | Ashland Petroleum Co. | Cincinnati, OH | Petroleum & other Chemicals | | |
| 477.5 R | Anderson Ferry | Cincinnati, OH | | | |
| 478.5 L | Harpers | Constance, KY | Gravel | | Moored Barge with hopper |
| 478.6 R | Indiana Grain - Cincinnati | Cincinnati, OH | Grain | B&O | |

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|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------|--|
| 478.7 R | Defense Logistics Agency | Cincinnati, OH | Petroleum Products | B&O and C&O | Four cells with floating dock |
| 479.0 R | Shell Asphalt Co. | 5150 River Rd. Cincinnati, OH | Petroleum products, Asphalt and light oil. | B&O and C&O | |
| 479.2 R | C.F. Industries | 5125 River Rd. Cincinnati, OH | Phosphate and Fertilizer | B&O | 5 cells with permanent barge |
| 479.5 R | River Transportation Co. | 5297 River Rd. Cincinnati, OH | Salt, vegetable oil, fertilizer, petroleum products, dry bulk commodities | B&O | 4 cells with permanent barge |
| 479.7 R | Cargill Inc. | 5495 River Rd. Cincinnati, OH | Grain | B&O | Permanently moored barge |
| 480.5 R | Rapid Run Creek (Bender Rd.) | Cincinnati, OH | | | |
| 480.9 L | Ashland Oil Inc. | Stringtown, KY | Fleeting | | 3 cells |
| 482.5 R | CGB Marine Services | Cincinnati, OH | Marine Services | | Barge and Tow repair |
| 482.5 R | Saylor Park Ice Piers | Cincinnati, OH | | | |
| 482.6 L | Morehead Marine | Stringtown, KY | Marine Services | | Barge and Tow repair |
| 484.0 R | Muddy Creek | Cincinnati, OH | | | |
| 484.0 | Cincinnati City Limits (West) | | | | |
| 484.2 R | Monsanto Chemical | Addyston, OH | Chemical & Plastic | B&O | 4 cells with permanent barge |
| 486.0 R | Consolidated Grain & Barge | North Bend, OH | Agricultural products and Salt | B&O & Conrail | 2 permanently moored barges & 3 dolphins |
| 487.9 R | Kosh Asphalt Co. | North Bend, OH | Liquid Asphalt and Flux oil | | 3 cells |
| 489.3 R | Vigoro Industries | North Bend, OH | Anhydrous Ammonia & Liquid Fertilizer | B&O | 2 cells |
| 489.7 R | Chevron USA, INC. | North Bend, OH | Distillate Oils & Asphaltic Products | B&O | 3 cells and permanent moored barge |

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|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 490.0 R | Miami Fort - Duke Electric | North Bend, OH | General Freight | B&O | 4 cells |
| 490.2 R | Miami Fort - Duke Electric | North Bend, OH | Coal | B&O | 4 cells |
| 490.3 R | Miami Fort - Duke Electric | North Bend, OH | Fuel Oil | B&O | Permanently moored barge |
| 490.7 R | E.I. Dupont De Nemours Co. | 11215 Brower Rd. North Bend, OH | Sulfuric Acid | B&O | 2 cells |
| 491.6 | I-275 Bridge @ Lawrenceburg | | | | |
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| Available Boat Ramps - Ohio | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------|--------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Name | Nearest Address | ZIP | Status | Waterway | Notes |
| Boatsmith Marina | 6641 Kellogg Ave | 45255 | Open | Ohio River | Muddy ramp, not paved |
| Catalina Harbour | 7514 Gracely Dr | 45233 | Open | Muddy Creek | 941-7909 |
| Cincinnati Public Landing | 601 Mehring Way | 45202 | Open | Ohio River | |
| Enerfab | 4333 River Rd | 45204 | Open | Ohio River | |
| Fernbank Park | 3 Wilkens Short Rd | 45233 | Closed | Ohio River | Concrete barriers at top of ramp |
| Four Seasons Marina | 4609 Kellogg Ave | 45226 | Open | Ohio River | |
| Mariners Landing | 7405 Forbes Rd | 45233 | Open | Ohio River | Fuel available here |
| River Downs | 6295 Kellogg Ave | 45230 | Open | Ohio River | |
| Riverside Boat Ramp | 3540 Southside | 45204 | Open | Ohio River | |
| Schmidt Memorial Rec. Area | 3019 Humbert Ct | 45226 | Open | Ohio River | |
| Shawnee Lookout | 1979 Lawrenceburg Rd | 45052 | Open | Gr. Miami River | Shallow |
| Shelter Cove | 5001 Kellogg Ave | 45228 | Open | Ltl. Miami River | Large ramp |
| Washington Marina | 6629 Kellogg Ave | 45230 | Open | Ohio River | Private |