

Category 5

Criterion 5G: Technical Rescue Program

The agency operates an adequate, effective, efficient and safe technical rescue program directed toward rescuing the community from any life-endangering causes (e.g., structural collapse, vehicle accidents, swift water or submersion, confined space, cave-in, trench collapse). If identified risks are outside the scope of the agency's capabilities, Category 10 performance indicators should address the agency's ability to receive aid from partners in those areas. The agency must conduct a thorough risk assessment as part of activities in Category 2 to determine the need for specific technical rescue programs and support the overall risk reduction strategy. Agencies that only provide first responder services must also complete this criterion.

Summary:

The department responds to the following technical rescue call types: confined space, high and low angle, water and ice, trench collapse, structure collapse, and vehicle extrication. Centrally located Station 5 is responsible for, and houses the apparatus and equipment needed for a technical rescue call type response. The only variation is for the Confined Space call type. Engine 4 (Haz-Mat) is also recommended. Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) assigns the closest medic unit or fire apparatus along with resources from Station 5 to achieve the department's effective response force (ERF). Crews assigned to Station 5 are responsible for meeting training requirements related to ISO, as well as the minimum training requirements for technical rescue. The department is also a participating member of Kansas Task Force 2, housing a trailer and equipment cache.

Technical Rescue continues to be a high risk, low frequency response, with water rescue and vehicle extrication being the predominate call types. Recently, the department began to reimagine the deployment of its technical rescue resources. Station 5 will continue to be responsible for responses to these call types, but Truck 5 and Rescue 5 have been replaced

with an engine and tractor drawn aerial. Technical Rescue equipment is being updated as well and will be split between both units.

Performance Indicators:

CC 5G.1 Given the agency’s community risk assessment/standards of cover and emergency performance statements, the agency meets its staffing, response time, station(s), apparatus, and equipment deployment objectives for each type and level of risk of a technical rescue incident(s).

Description

The department’s technical rescue services are deployed out of Station 5. Station 5 houses a medic unit, fire apparatus (engine), and rescue tiller. Station 5 also houses a Kansas Task Force 2 trailer with equipment cache and three water rescue boats. The deployment of the Kansas Task Force 2 trailer and boats require cross staffing. Daily minimum staffing for Station 5 is nine. This allows for the staffing of Medic 5 (two personnel), Engine 5 (four personnel), and Ladder 5 (rescue tiller- three personnel).

All Station 5 employees that are not currently Rope 1 certified, are working towards that certification through Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute. Rope 1 certification is the baseline certification needed by crew members stationed at Station 5. An operations chief officer is coordinating with the Station 5 captains on the development of a list of job performance requirements (JPRs).

Engine 5 has vehicle extrication and light rescue capabilities. The remainder of the technical rescue equipment is currently on a secondary apparatus that is assigned as Rescue 5, and on the KS Task Force 2 trailer. Train-the-Trainer for the department’s newly delivered Ladder 5, a tractor drawn apparatus, is ongoing. The department is continuing to upgrade and/or replace technical rescue equipment.

Appraisal

The department has experienced an increase in call volume, placing pressure on the reliability of obtaining the full effective response force for technical rescue call types. Technical rescue call types remain “high risk, low frequency.” The department’s rescue boats are aging and the delivery of the new gator tail rescue boat will provide an updated foundation for water rescue call types.

Plan

The department will be transitioning to a “rescue engine” concept and moving away from a dedicated rescue apparatus. This is expected to help with reliability throughout the entire department system. Training on Ladder 5 will be completed and will be outfitted with designated equipment. The alarms and response plans for the technical rescue call types will be reviewed. Recommended changes will be coordinated with DGECC and then implemented in 2023. The evaluation of these changes will be ongoing. The department will take delivery of its new gator tail rescue boat in late 2022, followed by in-service training for Station 5 crews. The crews will begin reviewing and completing the technical rescue JPRs. The development of a list of JPRs that will be completed by each member assigned to Station 5 every year should provide an opportunity to measure proficiency against any available outcomes related to technical rescue responses.

References

Engine 5 Specs

Ladder 5 Specs

SOP 202.10 Alarms and Responses

SOP 209.21 Confined Space Rescue

SOP 209.22 Rope Rescue

SOP 209.23 Water and Ice Rescue

SOP 209.24 Trench Rescue

SOP 209.25 Structure Collapse

SOP 209.26 Vehicle Extrication

Purchase Order for Equipment

2017-2021 Response Performance Tables

CC 5G.2 **The agency conducts a formal and documented program appraisal, at least annually, to determine the impact, outcomes and effectiveness of the program and to measure its performance toward meeting the agency’s goals and objectives.**

Description

The department conducts a formal and documented program appraisal annually that summarizes the program’s impacts, outcomes, and effectiveness in the prior year. New goals are outlined for the upcoming year within this document.

Appraisal

The department’s assigned program manager and supportive staff have been able to complete an annual program appraisal. These appraisals are provided to the AHJ for review, as well as posted on the department’s external /internal website for employee review as part of the Annual Compliance Report.

Plan

The department will continue to utilize these appraisals to improve performance within the program as well as develop more efficient operational procedures based on the prior year’s performance.

References

2021 Technical Rescue Program Appraisal

2022 CFAI Annual Compliance Report (pages 23-26, 80-84)