

SWIFT WATER RESCUE

SIZE-UP

- Unit Designator / on scene / crew Strength
- Incident location
- How many people are missing
- Entry point of victim(s)
- Victim(s) Description: Name, age, gender, description (including clothing)
- Incident circumstances
- Length of time victim(s) in the water
- Consider placement and access for downstream resources
- Consider downstream entrapment locations (strainers, vegetation, low head dams)
- Establish Command / give location of ICP
- Request Swift Water Rescue response and any additional resources based on incident type
- Ensure resources are directed downstream and that downstream agencies are notified
- Estimate flow speed and forecast victim travel distance

INITIAL ACTIONS

- Begin primary search along riverbanks where victim was last seen
 - Remain at least 10' from the water's edge
 - SWR (USAR) Personnel only on the water's edge
 - Primary Search-Walk from current overpass to the next down river overpass
 - Secondary Search-Completed while walking back to original overpass
- Use helicopter for aerial search and/or lighting (if available)
- Ensure common tactical frequencies with downstream resources
- **DO NOT ENTER MOVING WATER**
- If victim is seen, advise them to:
 - Not fight the water
 - Get in survival swim position
 - Move toward shore
 - Avoid obstacles and debris
 - Look for firefighters / rescue efforts
- Throw victim something that floats (life vest / inflated fire hose)
- Throw victim a line if possible (throw bag operations)
- Assign downstream safety
- EVALUATE and DEVELOP PACE PLANS

SCENE SAFETY

- **DO NOT** wear turnout gear and structure helmets
- **DO NOT ENTER MOVING WATER** unless properly trained & equipped
- Wear running or tennis type shoes along riverbanks
- Wear swift water helmets and PFDs at water's edge
- Keep searchers accounted for **Crew Accountability**
- Consider tag lines attached to rescuers performing throw bag operations