

TITLE OPERATIONS MANUAL	STANDARD INSTRUCTION 02		DEPARTMENT FIRE
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XII. COORDINATION WITH LIFEGUARDS

A. Coastal Cliff Rescue Emergencies

1. During Lifeguard Working Hours

The Lifeguards will have primary responsibility for responding to Coastal Cliff emergencies during lifeguard working hours. Fire Fighters will not be dispatched for cliff rescues until requested by the Lifeguard Service. If the Lifeguards, when responding to a cliff incident, determine that more sophisticated equipment is required or that additional personnel are required to perform the rescue safely, they should request assistance from Fire and Life Safety. Whenever it is necessary to utilize F&LSS equipment at a Cliff Rescue Scene, the Senior Fire and Life Safety Officer will be in command of the incident.

If the call for emergency services involves an injury, a ALS ambulance and First Responder Unit will be dispatched in accordance with City-wide procedures for emergency medical incidents. (See S.I. 02 Section XII B.1.)

2. During Lifeguard Non-working Hours

San Diego Fire and Life Safety Services will have primary responsibilities for responding to Coastal Cliff Rescue emergencies. However, when such a call is received, the appropriate Lifeguards will be called back to assist Fire personnel. A Fire and Life Safety Officer will be in command of the incident.

B. Coastal Cliff and Beach Medical Emergencies

1. During Lifeguard Working Hours

For all life-threatening emergency medical incidents that occur at the beach or on coastal cliffs, ALS ambulance and First Responder Units will be dispatched in accordance with City-wide emergency medical dispatch procedures. If the Lifeguards are on scene at such incidents, they will have full responsibility for treating the victim until the arrival of the First Responder or Ambulance paramedics.

2. During Lifeguard Non-working Hours

Response and procedures will be in accordance with normal City-wide procedures.

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C. River Rescue Policy

This section is being revised to further define the departments rescue policy in 1) stationary water and 2) moving water.

For the purpose of this policy, a river rescue shall be defined as any rescue of persons or property threatened, surrounded or entrapped by stationary or moving water. As a general policy, the Lifeguard River Rescue Team or Rescue 4 personnel will be called to make these rescues. No other Fire Department personnel may enter the water.

The senior ranking officer from Fire and Life Safety Services, at the scene, will have overall Incident Command responsibility for the River Rescue. When the Lifeguard River Rescue Team is called to the scene, the senior ranking member of that Team will have Division/Group Supervisor responsibility over the In-Water Rescue, and how it should be accomplished. The senior ranking officer of both safety services shall ensure that there is a high degree of coordination and cooperation among all personnel at the scene. The Lifeguard River Rescue Team will communicate on a Fire and Life Safety Services radio channel assigned by Fire Dispatch.