

# Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guideline

**Subject: Reciprocating Saws**

**SOG 310**

**Purpose:** This document establishes safe operating guidelines for Egg Harbor Fire Department's standard issue reciprocating saws.

**Scope:** This procedure applies to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

## **Guideline**

A DeWalt Cordless Reciprocating Saw is standard issue on Engine 6. The saw is powered by a nickel-cadmium battery pack and supplied with a 1 hour charger, spare battery and various blades. These saws are intended to be used for a variety of rescue applications, including vehicle and machinery extrication.

## **Operational Guidance**

### **I. General safety**

- A. Do not operate tools in explosive atmospheres, such as in the presence of flammable liquids.
- B. Always wear eye protection.
- C. Disconnect the battery pack from the tool or lock the trigger switch before making any adjustment or when changing the blade.
- D. Keep hands away from cutting area.
- E. Do not use dull blades, as dull blades may cause the saw to swerve.
- F. Remove any cracked or damaged battery packs from service. Turn damaged battery packs into an Officer for replacement.
- G. Do not store or use the tool and battery pack in locations where the temperature exceeds 105° F.

### **II. Charging**

- A. According to the manufacturer, the nickel-cadmium battery packs will not develop a memory.
- B. Place a fresh battery in the saw during vehicle checks.
- C. Batteries will charge in about one hour.
- D. During charging, a red light on the charger will blink continuously.
  - 1. When the charge is complete, the red light will remain on.
  - 2. The battery will maintain its charge if the battery pack is left in the charger.
  - 3. Battery packs will slowly lose their charge when not left in the charger.

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### **III. Operation**

- A. Always use two hands when operating the saw.
- B. Place the saw shoe firmly against the material that is being cut.
- C. If the saw fails to produce significant power, discontinue use.
  - 1. Continued use of the saw may damage the battery if it is completely drained of power.
  - 2. Replace the battery as needed before it is drained of power.
- D. Do not force the blade. Let the saw do the work.
- E. Always use heavy-duty blades that are rated for “demolition and/or extrication.”