Subject: Reciprocating Saws

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 105º 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.
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.”