SUBJECT: COLD WATER/ICE RESCUE

PURPOSE: The purpose of this S.O.G. is to establish a guideline for conducting cold water/ice rescue.

SCOPE: This policy shall apply to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

A. Personnel Response: When the department is dispatched to a possible cold water/ice rescue within our jurisdiction, it will be a full department response.
   1. For mutual aid response - it shall be determined by the officer in charge as to how many people will be needed and what equipment will be sent.

B. Vehicle Response: Engine 6 - with cold water/ice rescue equipment, Ladder 21 and other units necessary to responding personnel.

C. Incident Command: The job function of the incident commander:
   1. Establish ICS - with unified command.
   2. Conduct initial size-up.
   3. Contact reporting party/witnesses to determine exactly what happened and where person is or was last seen.
   4. Determine number of victims and locations.
   5. Develop action plan.

D. Ice Rescue Operations:
   1. Rescue will not be attempted until two people are suited up to go, two more people must then be in the process of suiting up.
   2. All rescuers will be tethered to shore.
   3. All equipment shall be assembled on a salvage cover for deployment.
   4. All people near the shoreline or near the water or on ice shall wear personal floatation devices.
   5. An ambulance will be dispatched to scene.
   6. Visual contact will be maintained at all times, if possible, with rescuers.
   7. The GPS (Global Positioning System) device will be used by the rescuers in foggy conditions or at night.