

# **Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guideline**

**Subject: Hydraulic-Powered Rescue Tool**

**SOG 313**

**Purpose:** This guideline sets the safety standards to be followed while operating a hydraulic-powered rescue tool.

- A. Prevent accidents, injuries, and deaths that might result from the misuse or improper operation of hydraulic-powered rescue tools.
- B. Prevent damage to hydraulic-powered rescue tools that might result from misuse or abuse.

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

**General:**

- A. Only Egg Harbor Fire Personnel responding to fire and emergency medical incidents that know how to properly and safely operate hydraulic powered rescue tools may operate them.
- B. Chief Officers shall train the members to properly and safely operate the hydraulic powered rescue tools assigned to our apparatus.
- C. An officer shall immediately stop any unsafe or improper operation of a hydraulic powered rescue tool and make the adjustments and corrections necessary to safely accomplish the assignment.
- D. Members shall inspect the hydraulic-powered rescue tools after every use to ensure that they are functioning properly. Tools found to be unsafe or malfunctioning shall be removed from service and be properly tagged. The Fire Chief shall be notified of any problems found.

**PROCEDURE:**

- A. Before operating a tool, always inspect the tips to make sure that the appropriate tips are being used and that the retainer pins, if used, are in place.
- B. Extend hydraulic lines from truck and switch on power unit. Turn hydraulic valves on to the hydraulic lines.
- B. To shut down the power unit turn off hydraulic valves and turn off switch. Retract the hydraulic lines.
- C. If using portable power unit. Place the power unit as level as possible, on a salvage cover, connect the hoses, but do not start the power unit until the tool operator gives the command to do so.
- D. If using battery powered tools be sure you have a fully charged battery. Upon completion install a fully charged battery in tool.
- E. Remember that it takes two people to operate the tool: one person to operate the tool and another person to operate the power unit.

SOG 313: Page 1 of 3

Original Issue Date: 10-7-10  
Last Review Date: 04/30/17  
Last Change Date: 04/30/17

- F. To start the power unit, turn on/off switch on, turn gas valve on, set choke to full if engine is cold, pull recoil over until engine starts, adjust choke so engine runs smooth, and set throttle to full.
- G. To stop the power unit, set throttle to low and let idle until engine cools some. Turn on/off switch off and turn off gas valve.

### **Safety Precautions:**

1. Full protective clothing shall be worn while using a hydraulic powered rescue tool during actual rescues as well as training exercises.
2. Items of protective clothing that are appropriate shall be worn while operating a tool for the purpose of inspection or maintenance.
3. Always work on the outside of the tool. Never insert your hands or other parts of your body between the jaws or tips of the tool.
4. Cover and protect the patient, and always explain to them what you're doing, if possible.
5. If fluid comes in contact with any exposed skin area, be sure to wash it off immediately.
6. If a fluid spill does occur, immediately clean any floor area or painted surface to prevent a fall or damage.
7. Hose should be laid out in such a manner as to prevent damage from sharp objects, vehicles, etc.
8. Always relieve hose pressure at the power unit prior to disconnecting a hose.
9. Do not use the cutters to cut a steering column or any piece of metal with a free end, since it may become a projectile. Cutters are designed to create a compression fracture rather than to cut.
10. At a motor vehicle collision, always have a charged hose line to protect against the possibility of a fire.
11. Rotate personnel to avoid fatigue.
12. Guide and hold the tool; do not force it. Don't strain against the tool; rather, work with it.
13. Always respect the tool.

### **General Maintenance:**

1. After Use Maintenance.
  - a. Clean tool.
  - b. Check for wear or damage on all parts.
  - c. Check that all fasteners (nuts, bolts, screws and retaining rings) are in place and securely fastened.
2. Monthly Maintenance/Inspection
  - a. Inspect carefully for Hydraulic leaks.
  - b. Inspect hoses and couplings for wear and damage.

SOG 313: Page 2 of 3

Original Issue Date: 10-7-10  
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- c. Check control valve operation for easy operation and free return to neutral (center).
  - d. Check inside frame yoke for dirt and debris.
  - e. Be certain all parts are clean.
  - f. Check blades for damage.
  - g. Check that all fasteners (nuts, bolts, screws and retaining rings) are in place and securely fastened.
3. Annual Inspection (Call your authorized Jaws of Life Distributor for maintenance and annual inspection care).
- a. Pressure check all valves and internal seals. Replace as required.
  - b. Check operating pressure, unloaded through full operating cycle.
  - c. Check blades for chips, cracks or other damage.
  - d. Check opening and closing times.
  - e. Replace operating decals, if necessary.
  - f. Replace hoses, couplings and fasteners as required.
  - g. Clean and lubricate.