

WATER RESCUE: SWIFTWATER/FLOOD OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

Area swiftwater and flood emergencies may occur during periods of high water run off in Spokane County. In addition, the Spokane River and its tributaries provide additional moving water hazards. Water rescue emergencies have the ability to strain local resources creating a need for mutual aid resources. This document focuses on the development and identification of specific Water Rescue resources.

This document is intended to provide guidance and develop recommendations for the Incident Commander.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Guidelines for Incident Operations
- Organizational Development
- Spokane area Resources
- Decontamination of Personnel and Equipment when operating under “flood conditions”

These guidelines are consistent with the Incident Command System.

WATER RESCUE INITIAL RESPONSE

The first arriving public safety officer will direct initial shore search and gather information for water rescue operations. This officer will assume initial command of the operation as the Incident Commander and form Unified Command with additional responding agencies with jurisdiction. Subsequent changes in the incident command structure will be based on the needs of the incident, with consideration of jurisdictional responsibilities, established agreements, state and local statutes and shall be accomplished by following established ICS procedures.

Additional resources, specifically trained and equipped for Water Rescue operations may be required. These Water Rescue resources may be acquired through Dispatch:

- Spokane Valley Fire Department (Water Rescue Team)
- Spokane City Fire Department (Water Rescue Team)
- Spokane Co. Sheriff's Department (Sheriff's Dive Team)

Due to the unique hazards and complexity of Water Rescue incidents, the Incident Commander may require a variety of different multi-disciplinary resources to accomplish the mission (See APPENDIX A. for Water Rescue Resources).

WATER RESCUE INCIDENT COMMANDER CHECKLIST

This list is intended to assist responding public safety personnel with management decisions:

- Review Common Responsibilities (Page 1-2),
- Utilize proper PPE (PFDs for personnel working near water)
- Establish ICS (consider Unified Command as appropriate)
- Determine additional resource needs (special teams-dive, water technical rescue).
- Establish Communication Plan.
 - assign tactical and command talkgroups (The Water Group will require a separate channel for entry crews working in the water.)
 - identify interagency coordination channel(s)
- Establish resource tracking (personnel accountability system).
- Evaluate incident needs.
 - Flood
 - Swiftwater Rescue? Acquire the following information
 - Exact point the victim/patient was last seen
 - How long ago
 - Keep witnesses at scene.
 - Number of victims
 - Victim Location
 - River Right or Left? > looking downstream
 - Trapped or Stranded
 - Under Water or Floating
 - Victim Description
 - Age Sex
 - Color of Clothing
 - Wearing PFD
 - Time in Water
 - Physical and Mental state of victim
 - Best access to victim
- Establish search/incident boundaries:
 - identify incident hazards
 - establish operational area
 - manage entry to operational area: (limit risk to untrained resources)
- Establish an Upstream Safety Lookout and Downstream Safety.
- Implement search and rescue operations:
 - determine rescue vs. recovery
 - evaluate low to high risk options
 - develop contingency plans
- Consider Evacuation Plan.
- Consider Traffic Plan/Staging Area(s).
- Establish Medical/Multi-Casualty Plan:
 - consider decontamination of victims
 - Establish logistics support.
- Establish logistical support
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UNIFIED COMMAND

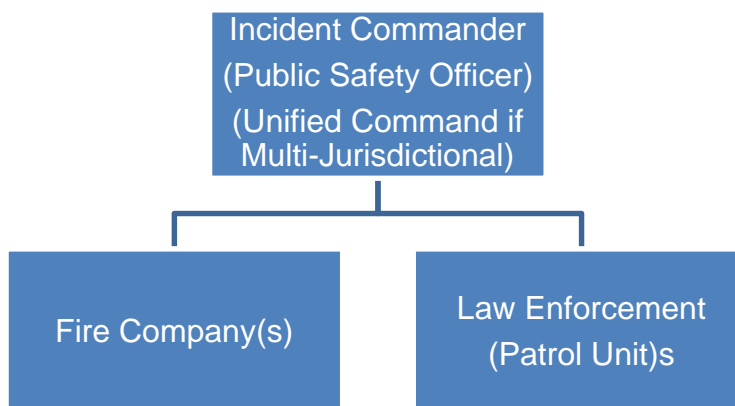
A Unified Command should be implemented at Water Rescue incidents when multiple agencies or jurisdictions with statutory or political authority and financial responsibility are involved. Unified Commanders involved in a Unified Command shall be co-located. A single Command Post is the best method to ensure effective communications, coordination of resources, and overall operational management of the incident.

ICS MODULAR DEVELOPMENT

The following organization charts are examples of ICS organizations to manage various incident complexities.

SWIFTWATER/FLOOD INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM ORGANIZATION CHART

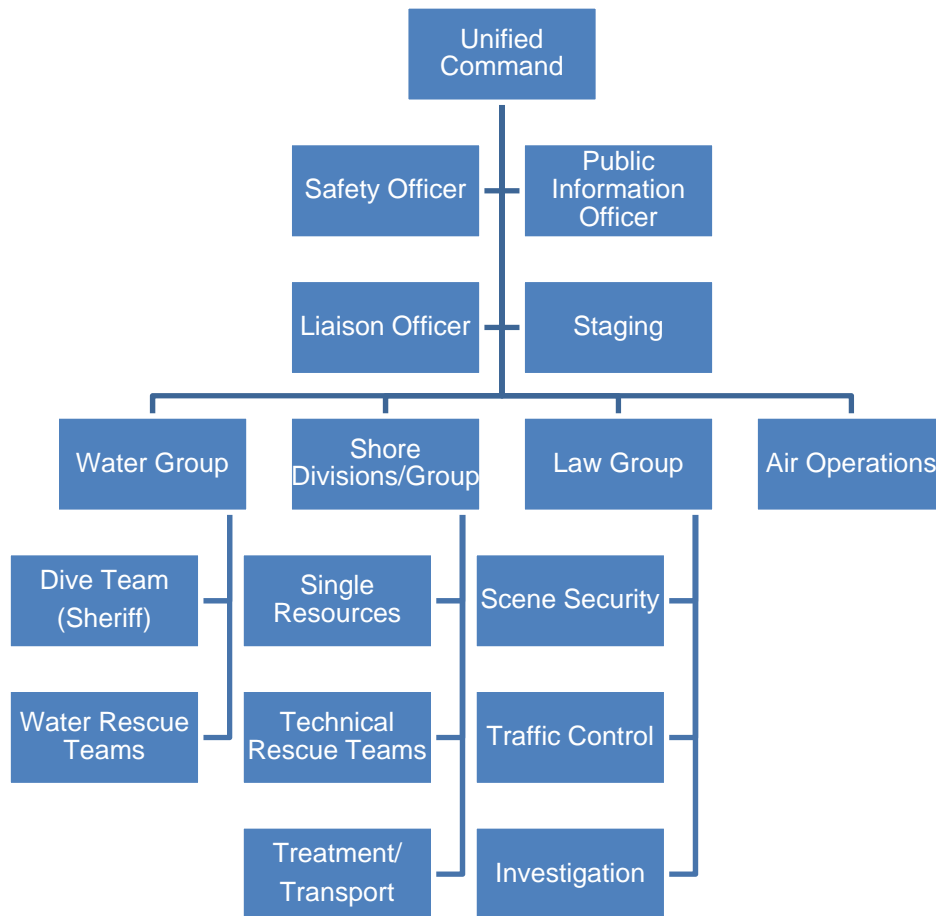
INITIAL RESPONSE



Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue- Initial response organization: The initial Public Safety Officer on scene will assume command of the incident. This officer will manage the initial response resources until properly relieved.

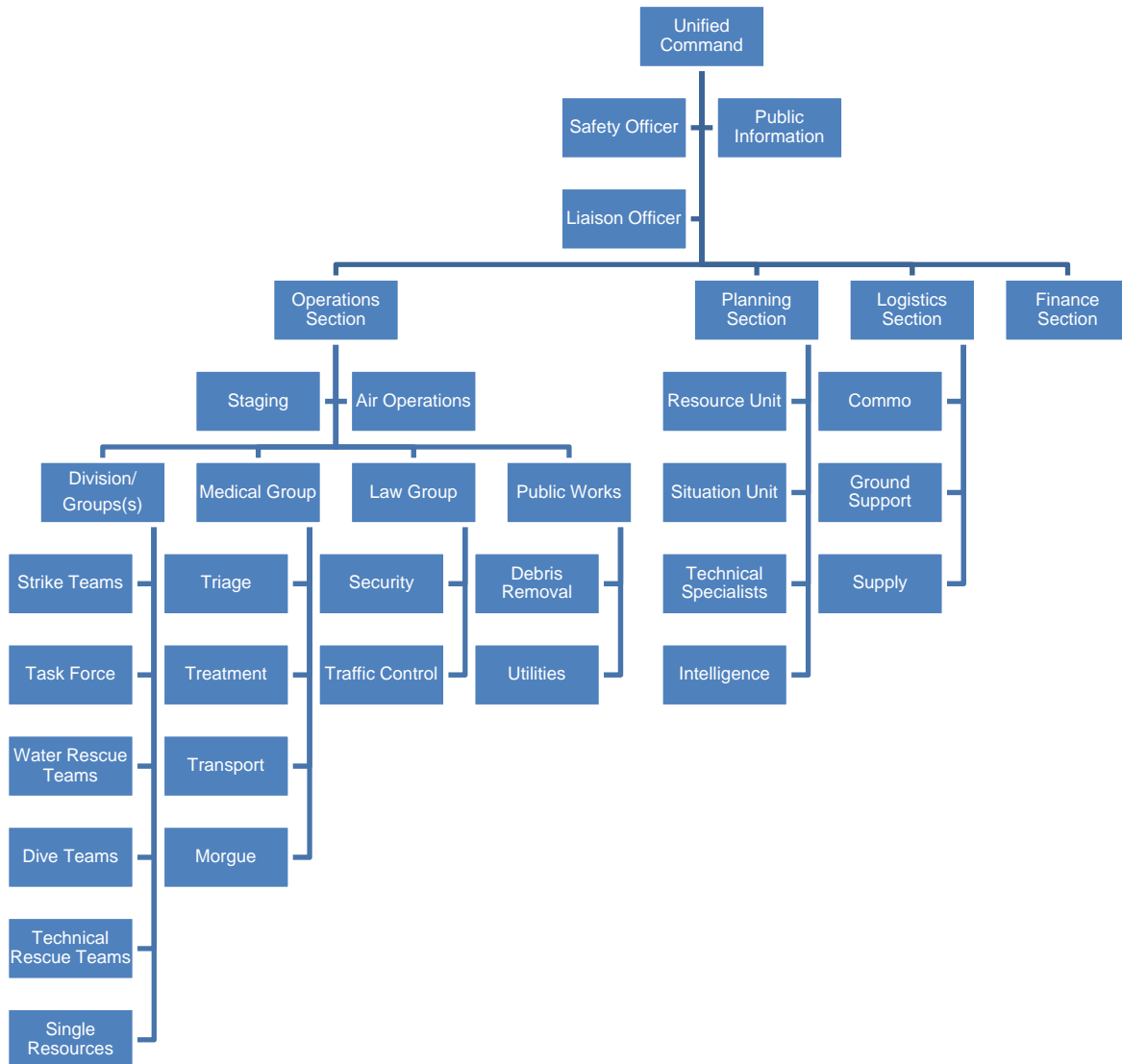
**SWIFTWATER RESCUE
INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM ORGANIZATION CHART**

RE-INFORCED RESPONSE



Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue- Re-enforced response organization- Additional law enforcement and fire resources have arrived. The incident commander creates a unified command, command staff positions are filled as needed and a staging area is established. The incident is divided into functional areas of responsibility.

**FLOOD
INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM ORGANIZATION CHART
MULTI-GROUP/DIVISION ORGANIZATION**



Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue- Multi group/division organization. Planning, logistics and finance sections have been added. Multiple groups and divisions may be added as complexity warrants. Branches may need to be created to manage span of control.

APPENDIX A. Spokane County Water Rescue Resources

This typing is based on team qualifications, available equipment and training, as needed for safe and efficient rescue operations for identified Water Rescue tasks.

	Sheriff	SFD	SFD	SVFD
Type (Capabilities)	<p>Investigates all water injuries and deaths</p> <p>In-water contact rescues</p> <p>Search ops</p> <p>Jet Boats/Personal Watercraft (Can launch smaller platforms off centennial trail. Deployed by 6x6 UTV)</p> <p>Dive Operations To include surface support (vessels/tenders)</p> <p>Boats: Jets Props Kayaks Cataracts</p> <p>Helicopter/Aerial Observation</p>	<p>Jet Boat: In-water contact rescues Assist in search ops</p> <p>Boat can access most areas of river with 5,000 + CFS (cubic feet / second)</p>	<p>In-water contact rescues Assist in search ops</p> <p>Non-power water craft (Paddle Craft)</p>	<p>In-water contact rescues. Assist in search ops</p> <p>Non-power water craft (Paddle Craft)</p>

Resource	Component	Sheriff	SFD	SFD	SVFD
Swiftwater/ Flood Search Water Rescue & Recovery Team	Equipment	<u>3 Jet Vessels</u> 22' Inboard Rigid 19' Outboard Rigid 18' Outboard Inflatable <u>2 PWC's</u> <u>4 Prop Vessels</u> 25" cabin 18' & 20" Hewes 15" Inflatable <u>2 Whitewater Rafts</u> <u>2 kayaks</u> <u>2 catarafts</u> <u>1 6x6 UTV</u> <u>1 OH-58 Helicopter</u>	19 Ft. Aluminum Rigid Hulled Inflatable Jet Boat	1 Cataraft Paddle Craft 2-6 Kayaks	3 Kayaks
	Personnel	<u>Water Rescue Deputies (16 total)</u> 9 surface support 9 Swiftwater Rescue Techs 7 Divers	2-3 member crew On duty driver required.	6-10 member team 1 Team Leader	3 to 7 member team 1 Team Leader
	Transportation	7 Trucks 1 Sedan 1 UTV	Personnel transport vehicle w/ boat trailer	Transport Vehicle	Transport Vehicle