



## CPS - Ice Rescue

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**Objective:** To effect a rescue for a victim(s) who is still on the surface in a static body of water.

### Tool Assignments

**Captain** - PFD

**Driver** - PFD, Reaching tool if victim is close, throw rope (If less than 75')

**FF** - Mustang Suit (Preferred) or PFD, Fins, 200' Water rescue pre-rigged rope kit, Ice board

**FF**- PFD, Bring 200' Utility rope, (Can assist FF or Driver in bringing tools down)

### Deployment

**Captain** - IRR, Assume command  
Make victim contact and assess their condition  
Communicate tactic (Self-rescue, Reach, Throw, Go or Combo) to crew  
Continually reassess and adjust the plan accordingly

**Driver** - Shore Support  
Assist in securing rescuer to rope kit, Safety checks system  
Take over victim communication until rescuer is close to victim  
Operate as Line Tender at water's edge for primary rescuer

**FF** - Primary Rescuer  
Secures self into rope system, Safety check with Line Tender  
Dons fins at ice/water's edge (If desired)  
Gets on the ice or enters the water moving towards the victim  
Enters the water feet first coming in behind the the victim  
Secures victim with the rescue sling  
Protects victim while being hauled to shore

**FF** - Backup Rescuer until another Mustang suit arrives on scene  
Would need to be secured into utility rope system managed by line tender as well  
Can swap places with the Driver and perform Shore Support duties



Notes:

- Given our response time to the scene, a **“Go” rescue situation will likely be required** as many victims will be entering the stages of moderate hypothermia and will be at an increased risk for slipping subsurface soon. Determining an immersion time for the victim can increase awareness of the victim's condition. Moderate hypothermia often sets in around the 10 minute mark following immersion.
- It is **strongly advised to request a dive response** from dispatch PTA as it can take 30 minutes or longer for a dive team to assemble and go enroute. Subsurface cold water rescues fall within the “Golden Hour” rule. Get them rolling early. Cancel them if you effect the rescue and are confident that there are no additional victims.
- The Mustang Suits are not a requirement for entering the water to effect a rescue. A PFD with properly rigged harness (on the front of the rescuer) is sufficient. Keep in mind however that this non-thermally protected rescuer will need to be managed to prevent hypothermia post rescue.
- This rescue model can be applied to water rescue in any static body of water, with or without ice. This model **DOES NOT** apply to swift/moving bodies of water.
- Hand Signals from rescuer
  - O.K. Tapping top of Head with Flat Hand
  - Stop Holding fist in air
  - Haul Waving arm repeatedly toward shore

Ice thickness and strength. This refers to good quality “Lake Ice” and moving loads

Ice Thickness	2”	4”	5”	8”	10-12”
	1 200# person walking	1 person ice fishing, group walking	Snowmobile	A car	A light truck



## 3 Person Company

### Tool Assignments

**Captain** - PFD

**Driver** - PFD, Reaching tool if victim is close, throw rope (If less than 75'), 200' Utility rope

**FF** - Mustang Suit (Preferred) or PFD, Fins, 200' Water rescue pre-rigged rope kit, Ice board

### Deployment

**Captain** - IRR, Assume command

Make victim contact and assess their condition until rescuer is close to victim

Communicate tactic (Self-rescue, Reach, Throw, Go or Combo) to crew

Continually reassess and adjust the plan accordingly

Operate as Line Tender at water's edge for primary rescuer

**Driver** - Shore Support

Assist in securing rescuer to rope kit, Safety checks system

Backup Rescuer until another Mustang suit arrives on scene

Would need to be secured into utility rope system managed by line tender as well

**FF** - Primary Rescuer

Secures self into rope system, Safety check with Line Tender

Dons fins at ice/water's edge (If desired)

Gets on the ice or enters the water moving towards the victim

Enters the water feet first coming in behind the the victim

Secures victim with the rescue sling

Protects victim while being hauled to shore

### References

- Dive Rescue International Ice Rescue training manual