

New York State Urban/Technical Search & Rescue Team

Standard Operating Procedure

Subject: General Safety

Section: 200-Operations

Procedure # 201

Date: 8 November 2001

Revised: 24 August 2015 (BS)

Purpose: To provide for the safety of all team members during all operations, including training evolutions and activations.

Scope: This procedure applies to ALL New York State Urban/Technical Search & Rescue Team (NY-TF2) members and Office of Fire Prevention & Control staff assigned to UT/SAR operations.

1. It is the responsibility of each individual to develop awareness for their own safety and the safety of other team members involved in an operation.
2. At the request of any team member with a safety concern, an operation or training evolution shall be stopped immediately. The Safety Officer, Team Leader, OFPC Staff or instructor shall review the problem/concern and determine if the evolution will continue or be terminated.
3. All personnel shall receive training related to the hazards and risks associated with technical rescue operations.
4. All NY-TF2 training and operation evolutions shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted standards, including but not limited to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Public Employees Safety and Health Act (PEOSH) and Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) training curriculum.
5. Safety Officer(s) shall be designated for all NY-TF2 technical rescue training exercises and actual operations. The NY-TF2 Team Leader or course instructor shall assign a safety officer with the specific knowledge and responsibility for the identification, the evaluation, and, when possible, the correction of hazardous conditions and unsafe practices.
6. Where members are operating in positions or performing functions at an incident or training exercise that pose a high potential risk for injury, members qualified in basic life support shall be standing by.
7. The Team Leader or course instructor shall ensure that there is a procedure to evacuate members from an area and account for their safety when an imminent hazard condition is discovered. This procedure shall include a method to notify all members in the affected area immediately by any effective means including audible warning devices, visual signals, and radio signals.
8. There shall be no deviation from this procedure.

Authority:

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