

**Galveston Fire Department  
Standard Operating Procedure  
1400.02 Seawall Rescues**

**Fire Chief**

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**Seawall Rescues**

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure is to ensure safe, consistent operations when victim(s) are rescued and lifted up onto the Seawall. All Fire Dept. personnel on scene need to wear a helmet and the appropriate gloves. Nothing within this procedure shall limit or prevent the Incident commander from altering the operations to fit the situation.

For any incident involving a person and/or vehicles going over the seawall, Galveston Fire Dept. shall respond the following apparatus.

- (1) Engine Co.
- (1) Squad Co.
- (1) Tower Co.
- (1) Safety Officer

It will be the responsibility of the responding Engine Co. Officer to request that the appropriate units be dispatched if they are not assigned on the initial dispatch. The first fire dept. unit to arrive shall establish Command, assess the situation and give a radio size up as soon as possible. It will be the Incident commander's responsibility to direct the Ladder crew on where to set up. The first arriving Engine Co. is responsible for accessing the patient, establishing patient contact and working with EMS in packaging the patient for rescue. If the incident occurs at night, the Driver of the first Engine Co. should establish scene lighting as soon as possible.

The Tower crew shall place the apparatus and begin the set up procedure. All eastbound lanes of the Seawall shall be blocked to ensure a safe working area. The Squad crew shall assist the Tower crew in setting up the rigging and preparing for the lift. The lightest, medically certified fire department member on scene should put on the Class III rescue harness. The stokes basket needs to be sent down to the crew with the patient so that the patient can be secured in the basket for the rescue. The patient needs to be secured into the basket using webbing.

Once the Tower is ready to be raised, all Tower operations shall take place from the turntable. There will not be anyone in the basket during the operation. One member, preferably the Tower Captain, needs to be responsible for directing the Tower operator.

This member needs to be positioned near the edge of the Seawall as to be in visual contact with the crew over the wall and the Tower operator.

### **Lifting set up**

Prior to setting the outriggers and raising the Tower ladder, attach the main hauling system and back up anchor strap to the truck.

1. Attach the two carabineers on the blue strap to the lifting eyes under the basket.
2. Pull the rest of the system out of the bag.
3. Attach carabineer from 2<sup>nd</sup> yellow strap to the front of the rescue harness

Back up system: When tying knots in the back up lines, try to keep the line tight between knots. This is so you don't add more shock to the system if the main line fails.

4. Back up anchor- run strap around the waterway, between the two monitors.
5. Attach the rescue rope to the back up anchor with the carabineer on the end of the rope
6. Attach the second carabineer to the back of the rescuers harness.
7. Attach the third carabineer to the head of the stokes basket.
8. Use the remaining rope for the tag line on the stokes basket.

**This procedure has been determined to be the safest way to use the Tower truck for Over the Seawall rescues.**

**The following information is according to the E-One training manual for the HP105 (publication #54378B June 2001)**

Use the lifting eyes on the platform for rope rescue operations.

The lifting eyes on the basket are rated to carry 250 lbs apiece.

**Do not lift more than 500lbs when using both lifting eyes together.**

**Do not use the safety belt attachment eyes for rescue operations.**

Always subtract the combined rescue weight hanging from the platform, from the tip load allowance on the platform load chart.

Do not retract or extend the platform when rescue loaded.