

**Galveston Fire Department**  
**Standard Operating Procedure**  
**#1400.05 GMR Drowning Responses**

**Fire Chief** \_\_\_\_\_

Implementation Date: **June 2011**

Review Date: February 2013

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The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure is to ensure a safe and efficient operation while providing support to the Galveston Island Beach Patrol on incidents involving water rescues or searches for missing persons in the water.

GFD will respond and operate on Public Safety per Policy #1000.09

GFD will respond with no less than 4 personnel when possible.

GFD personnel will wear their Safety vest to be easily identifiable from a distance.

The Command Post will be either the nearest Lifeguard Tower or a Beach Patrol Vehicle if they are on scene. A Beach Patrol supervisor will serve as Command. GFD personnel will support the Incident Commander in the following manner unless directed otherwise by Command.

**Captain** – *In the event GFD arrives before a Beach Patrol unit, assume Command until relieved by Beach Patrol.* Otherwise, report to Command to assist as a GFD Liaison. If they need any additional resources from us, this Captain will coordinate that.

**Driver** – Will function as the Accountability Officer at the Command Post. All that needs to be tracked is the number of guards in the water and where they are and the number of Firefighters on scene and where they are.

**Firefighters** – Both Firefighters will be assigned as Spotters. The Commander will direct them to the respective spotter locations and they will watch for the victim to surface and keep an awareness of the rescuers in the water.

In the event that the missing victim is located in the water, beyond a reasonable distance, and no Beach Patrol or GMR equipped personnel are on scene, GFD personnel shall not enter the water. Maintain visual contact with the victim and provide direction to Beach Patrol once they arrive.

GFD personnel, who are "GMR qualified", may be requested to assist in the water. That request will come from the Beach Patrol Incident Commander.