

Subject:	TRENCH RESCUE OPERATIONS
Section:	PPG# 4400.12
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	7/1/98

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1 It shall be the policy of Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 to not allow the entry of any personnel into any trench or excavation.
- 1.2 All members who may be involved in Fire District Trench Rescue Activities shall be trained to an "Awareness Level".
- 1.3 Members who supervise trench rescue operations shall have completed an accredited 16-hour course.
- 1.4 Members directly engaged in trench rescue operations shall be supervised in operational procedures by a qualified member.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 ***Trench Rescue:*** An incident in which a patient is trapped, buried or experiencing medical emergency in a trench or excavation.
- 2.2 ***Trench:*** A trench is a narrow excavation made below the surface of the ground. The depth is generally greater than the width, but the width is not greater than fifteen feet.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Incident Commander shall be trained, as a minimum, to the level of a Washington State Accredited Trench Rescue Emergency course.

4.0 GUIDELINES

- 4.1** No personnel shall enter an unprotected trench to perform patient care or rescue operations. All trenches shall be "Safe and Protected" using approved methods and materials prior to entry by emergency personnel.
- 4.2** Members shall be aware of the need to first size-up and assess the situation and request for additional personnel to make the trench site safe.
- 4.3** Do not add more pressure or stress to trenches or excavations by placing apparatus, equipment or personnel on top or in close proximity to the site.
- 4.4** The following distances should be established for the safety of all personnel:
- (a) Non-essential personnel should be kept a minimum of 50 feet from the edge of the collapse.
 - (b) Vehicles should not be allowed within 150 feet of collapsed areas during rescue operations.
 - (c) All traffic should be stopped or re-routed for a least 300 feet around the site to avoid vibration.
 - (d) The staging area should be 150 feet away from the incident site.
- 4.5** As soil collapse or shifting may affect public utilities the appropriate companies should be notified as soon as possible to aid in controlling additional hazards.

5.0 REFERENCES

WAC 296-305-05007