

<b>TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT</b> <b>CHAPTER 2: SUGGESTED OPERATING GUIDELINES</b>	
Part 9: Tactical Checklist Subject: School Bus Rescue Page 1 of 4 Effective Date: 07-01-95	Section: 2-9-9 Reviewed/Revised Date: 06-28-10

9.01 Goal. Provide guidelines for school bus rescue operations.

9.02 Guideline.

A) Command.

- 1) Expect distractions.
- 2) Incident will require large number of rescuers.
- 3) Size-Up.
  - a) Inner-circle survey.
  - b) Outer-circle survey.
  - c) Interior survey and **PATIENT COUNT**.
- 4) Organize the scene, assign supervision.
- 5) Plan for many patients. Call adequate resources.
- 6) Begin triage immediately.
- 7) Search for walk-off patients.
- 8) Consider need for Command Staff.
  - a) Public Information.
  - b) Safety.
  - c) Liaison.

B) Scene Safety.

- 1) Electrical System.
  - a) Shut off master switch.
  - b) Shut off ignition switch.
  - c) Access batteries.
    - 1) Outside battery compartment.
    - 2) Under hood.
    - 3) Disconnect negative side first. Isolate cable.
- 2) Fuel System.
  - a) Determine type of fuel.
  - b) Locate tanks and check for leaks.
  - c) Control spilled fuel as needed.

**Subject: School Bus Rescue**

**Date: 07-07-95**

**Page 2 of 4**

- 3) Fire Protection.
  - a) Position hand-lines.
  - b) Control vapors from spilled fuel.
- 4) Traffic Control.
  - a) Coordinate with law enforcement.
  - b) Use vehicle as barrier between traffic and work area.

**C) Stabilization.**

- 1) Initial Stabilization. Chock wheels while making circle surveys.  
Use 4 x 4's.
- 2) Sustained Stabilization.
  - a) Place box cribs in at least three locations, near front and rear.
  - b) DO NOT FLATTEN TIRES.
  - c) Use wedges to tighten box cribs.
  - d) Bus on side must be stabilized.
  - e) Tie off bus where appropriate.

**D) Initial Access.**

- 1) Front Service Door.
  - a) Mechanical Arm.
    - 1) Try hand operation.
    - 2) Break glass and open with pike pole.
  - b) Pneumatic Door.
    - 1) Emergency release located above door.
    - 2) Main control at instrument panel.
  - c) Latched Door.
    - 1) Small latch at center of door.
    - 2) Break glass and open door.
  - d) Glass in Door. Designed for rescuer access.
- 2) Rear or Side Door.
  - a) Single point latch.
    - 1) Try normal operation.
    - 2) Break glass and try inside.
    - 3) Pry with hydraulics.
    - 4) Remove with cutting tool.
  - b) Three point latch. (same steps as above)

**Subject: School Bus Rescue**

**Date: 07-01-95**

**Page 3 of 4**

- 3) Glass.
  - a) Tempered side and rear.
  - b) Laminated front.
  - c) Rubber mounted gasket.
  - d) Clean out all glass.

E) Disentanglement.

- 1) The concept is to "dig a tunnel".
- 2) Establish a "flow" route for tools and rescuers to enter and patients to exit.
- 3) Enlarge existing openings, or create new openings.
- 4) Enlarging Doors.
  - a) Front Door. Front door is not big enough to remove a patient on a long board.
    - 1) Cut away panels.
    - 2) Cut away rivets and remove.
    - 3) Tape sharp edges.
  - b) Rear Door.
    - 1) Open rear door with hydraulic spreader.
      - a) Remove all adjacent glass.
      - b) Start low and roll latch out.
    - 2) Remove rear door.
      - a) Pry off with spreader.
      - b) Cut away hinge with air chisel.
- 5) Enlarging Rear Door Opening.
  - a) Cut out all window posts.
  - b) Cut at each window opening (low and outside).
  - c) Pry out rub rails (cut with hydraulic shears).
  - d) Remove reflectors and tail lights.
  - e) Use reciprocating saw to cut away panel.
- 6) Enlarging Window Openings.
  - a) Remove glass and frame from two windows.
  - b) Cut post between windows.
  - c) Avoid using tools which produce spark or flame.

**Subject: School Bus Rescue**

**Date: 07-01-95**

**Page 4 of 4**

- 7) Opening the Side Wall.
  - a) Side wall contains both rub-rails and collision beams.
  - b) Remove adjacent seats.
    - 1) Spread up and away with hydraulic spreader.
    - 2) Cut away with hydraulic shears or reciprocating saw.
    - 3) Break away bolts with wrench.
    - 4) Cover or remove debris.
  - c) Making side wall opening (folded down).
    - 1) Cut top of center post.
    - 2) Make relief cut to center frame member at floor level.
    - 3) Make side wall cuts and fold panel down.
  - d) Making side wall opening (removed).
    - 1) Cut away top of center post and then cut away panel as desired. (Consider stopping at seat level to avoid collision beam.)
    - 2) Cover all sharp edges.
  
- 8) Bus On Its Side:
  - a) Use windshield and rear doors as initial access and egress points when possible.
  - b) A "sunroof" type of opening is possible.

**F) Patient Care/Removal.**

- 1) Start with the patient closest to the point of impact when possible.
- 2) Interior rescuers must inform Command of number and condition of patients.
- 3) Prioritize patients - TRIAGE.