

LEON COUNTY E.M.S.

Standard Operating Guideline

Title: Aquatic/Water Rescue
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I. PURPOSE:

Leon County Emergency Medical Services have established a series of safety policies to control hazards and minimize the risk of workplace injuries & illnesses. To provide guidelines for how personnel should react at a scene involving a water rescue. It is the expectation of LCEMS that these policies are observed and followed at all times.

II. GUIDELINE:

For the purpose of emergency response, a water rescue shall be defined as any incident that involves the removal of victim(s) from any body of water other than a swimming pool. This shall include rivers, creeks, lakes, washes, storm drains, or any body of water, whether still or moving. EMS personnel are not routinely trained nor equipped to effect water rescue. EMS personnel shall not **enter** the water in an attempt to rescue individuals other than swimming pools.

In the event EMS personnel encounter a victim in need of **water rescue**, consider requesting assistance from the following:

- a. Tallahassee Fire Department (Boats)
- b. Leon County Sheriff's Office Dive Team
- c. **Reach**- Attempt to reach the victim with a rescue hook or skimmer pole.
- d. **Throw**- Attempt to throw the victim a life ring, buoy, or rope if available.

In the event EMS personnel encounter a victim in need of rescue from a **swimming pool**, in addition to c. & d. (above), EMS personnel may;

Go- As a last resort, enter the pool to effect rescue.

- The rescuer shall take into consideration his/her ability to swim, the depth, condition, and clarity of the pool water before entering.
- Rescuer should remove electronic devices, shoes, or any other encumbering clothing and equipment.
- Enter the pool via steps or pool-side ladder.
- **DO NOT DIVE INTO THE POOL.**
- Bring victim to nearest edge of pool and immobilize and or remove as patient conditions and complaints dictate