



Ottawa County Sheriff's Office

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (E.R.P.)

ICE RESCUE

GENERAL STATEMENT

As of the date of this document, the "Emergency Response Plan for Ice Rescue" shall be the procedure for operations within the jurisdiction of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office.

Modification of this ERP can be implemented with the approval of Sheriff Robert Bratton that change is needed.

The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office is committed to assisting those public agencies that engage in rescue operations as they relate to ice rescues. This is one of the most dangerous undertakings of our committed emergency service agencies.

We recognize that the United States Coast Guard provides great assistance – at times critical to the outcome of these calls for service. However, this ERP is applicable to the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office only.

The ERP is outlined in several sections. There you will see that we are prepared for the following:

- Structured response and accountability of all emergency agencies.
- Establishment of a plan for review of repeat offenders.
- Coordination and implementation of procedures if criminal or civil action is necessary.

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ICE RESCUE

OTTAWA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

- The Communications Division of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office is advised that an ice rescue is required. There is either a rescue currently in progress or there is a need for emergency response to the location.
- It shall be the responsibility of the Communications deputy to contact the lead EMS/Fire service agency as has been done in the past for immediate response.
- If an agency contacts the Communications Division to advise that its personnel are engaged in a rescue operation, Communications shall ask if County assistance is needed.
- To further clarify, there are two circumstances whereby this ERP will be automatically implemented:
 1. Request for assistance by Fire, EMS, or law enforcement.
 2. Activation of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Dive Team.

If either of these circumstances exists, this plan shall be implemented immediately.

- The Communications deputy will proceed as follows:
 1. Ensure that all needs are addressed with rescue operations.
 2. Contact the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Senior Administration – Sheriff, Chief Deputy, and Captain of Operations.
 3. Maintain an ongoing log as to the activity relating to the incident. A "CR" should be established for each and every ice rescue operation.
 4. The ERP shall be administered by the Senior Command level of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office – again, Sheriff, Chief Deputy or Captain of Operations.

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ICE RESCUE

RESPONSE SECTION

Upon activation of the ERP, the Senior Administration personnel shall determine the number of deputies to respond. The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office will oversee various enforcement, safety, and record-keeping for all involved. To illustrate:

- Ice rescue is in operation.
- The Sheriff or his designee has declared an emergency, determining that the ice conditions are unsafe and that all must evacuate the ice.
- A team of support deputies is responding.
- Command post and location are established by Incident Command.
- All persons rescued are identified by law enforcement – name, address, DOB and SSN.
- Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Communications Division personnel shall maintain the names of the rescued individuals at the conclusion of the operation.
- A "CR" will be assigned to each and every ice rescue.
- The names of assisting Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, United States Coast Guard, and those rescued shall be recorded.
- Failure to provide identification shall result in immediate detainment, and Senior Administration personnel are to be notified for furtherance of identification and/or arrest.
- While an ice emergency is in effect, no one shall return to the ice without proper authorization. Authorization must be granted by Senior Administration personnel. Keep in mind that a declared emergency exists as so determined by the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office.
- Any and all violators returning to the ice without authorization shall be arrested immediately.

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DATABASE INFORMATION

This section shall cover the number of contacts, proposed educational awareness, and how civil action may be implemented.

- Any and all contacts shall be referred to and maintained as a "seasonal monitoring." All records will be permanently maintained, but for overview and enforcement purposes of this plan, there is a three-time contact that will be monitored for each season. It should be noted that repeat offenders over a period of years may be subject to review. However, for the implementation of this plan, it is viewed as follows:
 1. On-scene law enforcement personnel will collect the name, address, DOB and SSN of each rescued individual.
 2. The Communications Division will receive this contact information from the log sheets.
 3. If a second or third rescue is noted, Senior Administration will be notified for follow-up.
 4. Records shall be maintained permanently unless under provisions herein an individual's name is cleared by Senior Administration.
 5. The database will be reviewed at the conclusion of each season.
 6. There is established protocol for second and third violations. This information is noted further in this report.

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ICE RESCUE

INITIAL CONTACT

Upon an individual's initial contact with rescue personnel, the previously mentioned vital information will be recorded for the purpose of the database. The individual shall be advised of the following while at the scene:

- There is an ice emergency declared by the Sheriff. The ice is unsafe, and the individual is not to return to the ice.
- The rescued individual will provide his/her identification to law enforcement personnel for purposes of the database. The individual may be instructed that under a state of emergency, the requirement to provide identification is within the authority of a law enforcement officer.
- Failure to provide appropriate identification will result in detainment and further review as to whether or not the situation requires incarceration.
- Return to the ice **may be permitted** if the plan for return is approved by the Senior Administration of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with Fire/EMS authorities.
- An "ERP for ice rescue" policy will be mailed to the individual.
- Following compliance with the above, the individual is released.

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SECOND CONTACT

If a second contact with an individual for ice rescue occurs within the same season, the following guidelines shall be implemented:

- The individual is advised that an ice emergency has been declared by the Sheriff and that the individual is not to return to the ice.
- It is mandatory that the individual provide the requested vital information for law enforcement personnel.
- If it is known that this is the individual's second ice rescue, the individual will be advised that he/she will receive notification of same.
- There will be an outline presented to the individual for ice safety awareness class.
- Successful completion of the ice safety awareness class will result in the individual's name being removed from the database.

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ICE RESCUE

THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT CONTACT(S)

The third and subsequent ice rescue contact in a given season requires a different review and the potential for penalties under civil and/or criminal law. A third contact and rescue from the ice is defined as recklessness, irresponsibility and negligence in personal accountability. Strong action will now be considered.

- The individual is advised that an emergency has been declared as the ice is unsafe, and he/she is not to return to the ice.
- It is mandatory that identification and vital information be provided.
- If either on scene or later it is determined that this is the individual's third ice rescue contact, he/she will be notified of potential civil action in the Ottawa County Municipal Court.
- Expenses will be estimated at the conclusion of each rescue. However, the costs for the third rescue will be reviewed by the Ottawa County Prosecutor, civil action prepared and filed for Small Claims Court. Any awards as a result of that finding will go to the appropriate jurisdiction(s) that incurred the expense.
- Failure to respond to civil action will result in further review and determination whether cause exists to remove the matter from civil action and proceed to criminal charges against the rescued individual.

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ICE RESCUE

SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES' RESPONSIBILITIES

If as a Sheriff's deputy you are assigned the duty of working under the "Emergency Response Plan for Ice Rescue," please understand the checklist provided below.

1. Understand this "ERP for Ice Rescue."
2. If you are so notified, respond to the ice rescue Command location.
3. Maintain observation for the safety of all, enforcement, and operation of this plan.
4. Incident Command shall be advised of the number of support deputies en route or on scene.
5. Persons rescued from the ice will be contacted by law enforcement support deputies and must present proper identification.
6. The individual(s) shall be advised that the County is under emergency ice rescue conditions, that the ice is deemed unsafe, and that the individual(s) will not return to the ice unless authorized by Senior Administration for equipment removal.
7. Those individuals with initial contact for ice rescue will be mailed a copy of the ERP. You may or may not know their status (i.e., number of contacts) at the time of the ice rescue.
8. A log sheet will be provided so that all names, addresses, DOB and SSN are included and submitted to the Communications Division. They in turn will maintain a log.
9. A support team of deputies shall implement various sections of the Ohio Revised Code if necessary while on scene. Please understand that a state of emergency has been declared and that misconduct at an emergency is certainly a tool that could be utilized. However, it is our goal and objective to hold to this plan. If an individual is reluctant to provide identification, he/she shall be detained while Senior Administration is contacted. At that time there will be further review as to the next step. Should an individual refuse to be detained, he/she shall be placed under immediate arrest.
10. Each response to an ice rescue shall follow this course of action.

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SHERIFF'S SENIOR ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES

At this time the Senior Administration structure consists of Captain of Operations, Chief Deputy, and Sheriff. They shall always conduct the following as it relates to the "Emergency Response Plan for Ice Rescue."

1. They will be advised that an ice rescue is/will be conducted.
2. The Sheriff or his designee shall immediately declare that the ice is unsafe and that all individuals must remove themselves from the ice.
3. Assure that the proper number of deputies is dispatched for the safety of all individuals and the enforcement of any laws. If there are not enough deputies on duty at the time, activation of overtime should be immediate for a sufficient number of deputies.
4. At least one member of the Senior Administration shall be on site during an ice rescue operation.
5. Senior Administration shall ensure the safety of those present and enforcement of this ERP.
6. Check with support deputies to ensure that contact information is being received.
7. At the conclusion of each ice rescue, the Sheriff or his designee shall review contact information to determine initial, second or third contact.
8. Following the initial contact, the Sheriff will make sure a copy of the ERP is mailed to the rescued individual.

After a second contact, the Sheriff will make the appropriate notification with regard to the ice safety awareness class and that the individual has now required a second ice rescue.

After a third contact, the Sheriff will work with Fire and EMS to determine all costs incurred in the rescue and shall then assist in overseeing any civil and/or criminal action against that individual. If there is a failure of response by the individual to the civil action, the Sheriff and the Prosecutor will make an immediate review regarding the filing of a criminal complaint.

9. Following each ice rescue, it is the goal that the Fire, EMS and any other emergency service agency that has been activated assess a cost for that rescue. It is asked that this information be provided to one of the Senior Administration of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office who in turn will ensure that the cost is noted in the permanent file in the Communications Division of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office.

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ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES RELATING TO ERP

Effective January 09, 2006, this document shall be policy within the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office for enforcement by personnel. It is the responsibility of all Divisions to be aware of, understand, and if called upon administer this policy. The Senior Administration command structure in this regard is as follows:

1. Captain of Operations
2. Chief Deputy
3. Sheriff

They shall be responsible for overseeing this objective for the safety of all local, County, State, and Federal emergency service personnel engaging in such declared emergency situation.

This Emergency Response Plan does not reflect any comments, remarks, regulations, concerns, or course of action by the United States Coast Guard. There must be a clear understanding that this policy is for the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office and does not reflect anything relating to the United State Coast Guard. Its ice rescue procedures have been established, and the Coast Guard operates under its own guidelines and course of action.

Consideration of civil and/or criminal matters shall be presented to the Ottawa County Prosecutor or communicated from the location of the emergency operation if necessary. On view situations by a deputy may constitute an arrest as under any other normal course of observing violations of the Ohio Revised Code.

As set forth in the authorization of the Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 311, I, Sheriff Robert L. Bratton, hereby declare this "Emergency Response Plan for Ice Rescues" effective 01/09/2006. Any amendments or modifications to this plan will be documented and appropriately distributed.

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