

City of Belleville Fire Department

Number: 1010

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Belleville Fire Department that prudent practice be exercised to reduce the risk to personnel while fighting fires near water.

Date S.O.G. Comes Into Effect: July 19, 1997

Date S.O.G. Revised: March 8, 2017

Date Committee Approved S.O.G. : May 19, 1997

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GUIDELINE

1:00 Purpose:

1:01 To reduce the risk to personnel while fighting fires near water

2:00 Procedures:

2:01 Where a Fire Fighter is exposed to the hazard of falling into water while fighting fire the following precautions are to be taken.

(A) Wearing of personal flotation devices by fire fighters performing tasks such as line handling, particularly where the shoreline is slippery or steep, or where the fire fighter is engaged in work where he/she may be pulled into the water.

(B) Provision for adequate access and egress for emergency personnel by providing additional gangways, ladders or other devices.

(C) Provisions for locating and rescuing fire fighters who may fall into the water.

(D) Life lines should be used when firefighting near water when the danger of falling into the water exists.

THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.

NOTE: The life jacket must be stamped or labeled and approved by Transport Canada; personal floatation devices must be stamped or labeled and approved by the Canadian Coast Guard, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

3:00 **Scope:**

- 3:01 It shall be the responsibility of the Captain/ Officer in charge of each shift to ensure that this guideline is explained and followed.
- 3:02 It shall be the responsibility of **all employees** to understand and adhere to this guideline.

THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.