



Points to Ponder



Lisle Woodridge Fire District

“Flood/Moving Water Awareness”

FORCE OF WATER

- Water flowing at an easy running pace can begin to wash people off their feet in a depth of only 6 inches.
- Water flowing at an slow walking pace can make it difficult for crew members to retain their balance at 3ft of water.
- 12 inches of fast moving water has enough energy to move a car.



Rescue priorities

Yourself

Important to take responsibility for you own actions in hazardous water environment. Unless you are properly equipped and trained the task could be unachievable and could result in you becoming a victim.

***Mustang suit with PFD**

Crew

Members not only have to look out for yourself but, also that of the crew. This creates the safest working environment possible.

Victim

Only once the rescuer and the crew have been safety accounted for can operations begin for the victim.



Safe Operations

- No person should ever be tethered near or in moving water unless they have the appropriate training and proper type 5 PFD with breakaway tether attachment.
- If a person is tethered in moving water the rope has the potential to trap the effected member underwater without a means of escape
- If a member is swept away in moving water **never** attempt to stand up. Attempting to stand up in moving water can lead to a foot entrapment; this situation can be fatal.
- The effected member should swim on their back with their feet in front of them downstream to the waters' edge. Then find an area of calm water to regain their footing.
- Always use a object (IE. pike pole, etc.) to probe area in front of you when walking if unable to see what you are walking on.
- Lost manhole covers, guard rails, tree branches, bridges and other floating debris are all possible hazards.
- Strainers are a very dangerous type of hazards that entrap a person on their up-stream side and only allow water to flow through but not solid objects.
- Other possible hazards include anything that a person has in their house, garage or yard. Power lines, gasoline, biohazards, etc.