

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE: June 6, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee:
Sheffie Kadane (Chair), Adam Medrano (Vice-Chair), Dwaine Caraway, Jennifer S. Gates,
Sandy Greyson, Scott Griggs

SUBJECT: **Swift Water Rescue**

Attached is briefing material on the “**Swift Water Rescue**” to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, June 9, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles M. Cato'.

Charles M. Cato
Interim Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Warren M. S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, Interim First Assistant Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P. E., Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Theresa O'Donnell, Interim Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Shawn Williams, Interim Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor and Council



SWIFT WATER RESCUE

Public Safety Committee

June 9, 2014



PURPOSE:

Familiarize the Committee with the Fire-Rescue Department's abilities to respond to situations when citizens are trapped by moving water (swiftwater) in:

- ▣ Lakes
- ▣ Rivers
- ▣ Streams
- ▣ Flood Prone Areas

GOALS:

- ▣ To reduce injury to citizens trapped by moving water
- ▣ To prevent death of citizens
- ▣ To provide back-up crews to other water responders

History of Swiftwater Rescue

- ▣ May 5, 1995 super storms
- ▣ Technical Rescue Team 15 until 2007
- ▣ Swiftwater 34 - July 7, 2007
- ▣ One Swiftwater Team
- ▣ Seven flat water boat stations

Effects of Moving Water

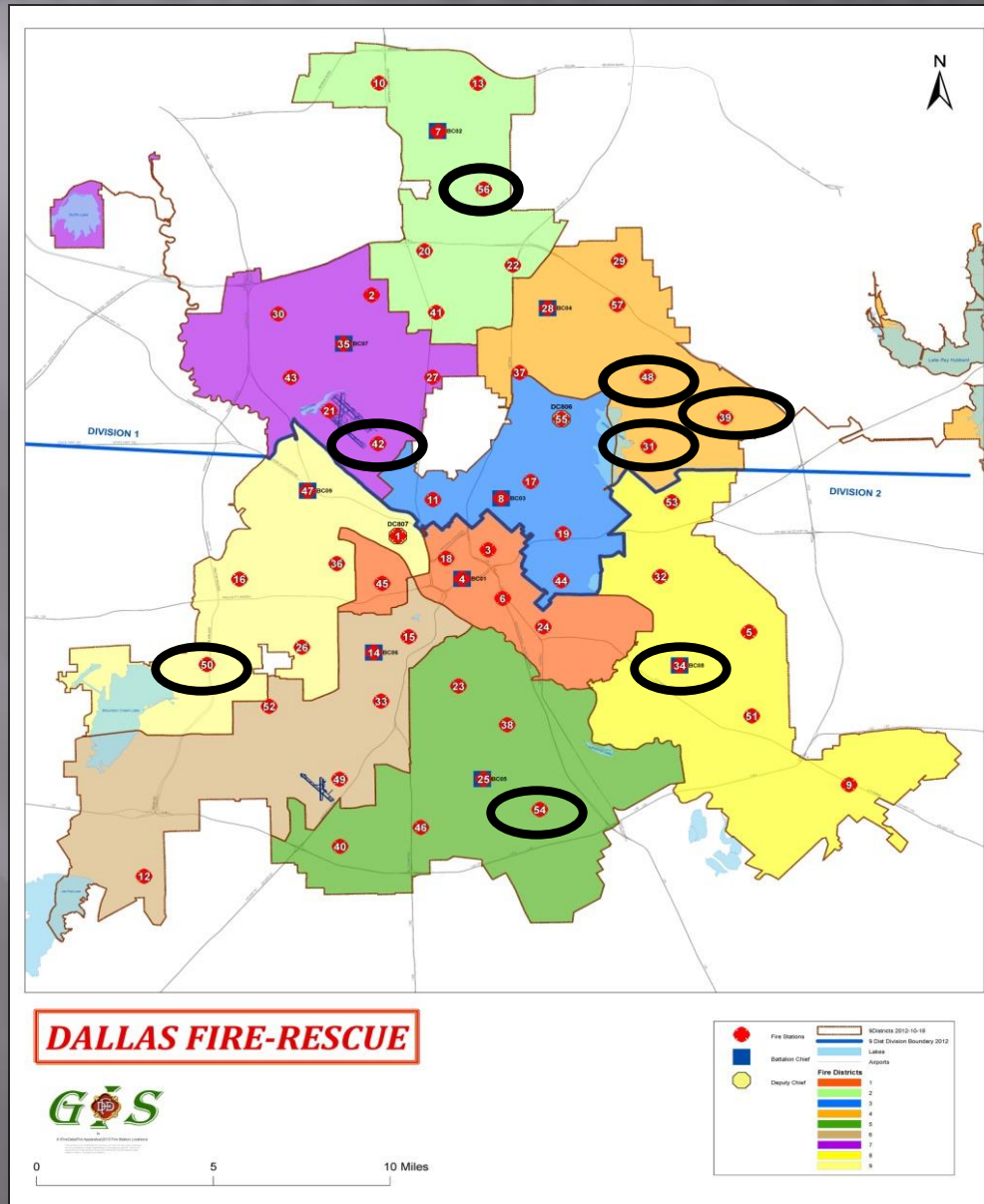
- ▣ Swiftwater - moving water at a rate greater than 1 knot (1.15 mph)
- ▣ Force of water at varying speeds

Current Velocity		Average Force of the Water in (lbs)	
MPH	On Legs	On Body	
3	16.80	33.60	
6	67.20	134.00	
9	151.00	302.00	
12	269.00	538.00	

Organization

- ▣ Deputy Chief of Special Operations (812)
- ▣ Section Chief of Special Operations (815)
- ▣ Water Rescue Coordinator (889)
- ▣ Officers at Station 34
- ▣ Swiftwater Technicians
- ▣ Staffing minimum of 6 Swiftwater Technicians per shift

Current Boat Locations



Responsibilities

- ▣ Respond to all Swiftwater incidents
- ▣ Respond to all boat calls as the rescue team (NFPA 1670)
- ▣ Respond to special aquatic events
- ▣ Conduct at least 40 hours of continued education per year
- ▣ Conduct 4 hours of continued education for all boat crews

Training Requirements

- ▣ National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006 & 1670
 - I. Swiftwater rescue (50 hours)
 - II. Technical rope rescue (80 hours)
- ▣ All members certified as technicians in all areas of water rescue
- ▣ Continued Education - 40 hours per year

Apparatus

SWIFTWATER 34



TRAILER WITH INFLATABLE BOAT



Personal Equipment

- ▣ Wet suit / Dry suit
- ▣ Personal Flotation Device
- ▣ Helmet
- ▣ Throw bag
- ▣ Whistle
- ▣ Knife
- ▣ Footwear
- ▣ Flashlight



Rescue Priorities

- ▣ REACH
- ▣ THROW
- ▣ ROW
- ▣ GO



Priorities



Swiftwater Responses

- ▣ In 2013 - Swiftwater 34 responded to 41 reported water rescues
- ▣ In 2013 - the Swiftwater Rescue Team saved 9 victims
- ▣ January 2014 to present - Swiftwater 34 has responded to 24 reported water rescues

Questions?



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