
	GAITHERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT			
	Search and Rescue			
	GENERAL ORDER	1001.1		Related CALEA Standards: 46.1.1, 46.1.2, 46.1.3, 46.2.6, 46.2.7
	Effective Date	05/17/2016		
Authorized by:	Mark P. Sroka CHIEF OF POLICE	SIGNATURE <i>Mark Sroka</i>	DATE 05/17/2016	

I. DEPARTMENT POLICY

The Department initiates or participates in search and rescue operations to the extent necessary to locate missing, lost, or unaccounted-for persons with the intent of removing them, if not trapped or injured, to a safe location, or to identify their location, if they are trapped or injured, so that their extrication and/or emergency medical treatment or evacuation can be accomplished by appropriately trained personnel.

II. SEARCH AND RESCUE

A. Procedures and Guidelines

1. If a search and rescue operation involves Police and Fire/Rescue personnel, Department personnel coordinate all efforts involving search and rescue with the Fire/Rescue Incident Commander.
2. The officer in-charge of Department personnel participating in a search and rescue mission:
 - a. Ensures that their Commander and the Chief of Police are notified as soon as practical;
 - b. Establishes a command post in conjunction with Fire/Rescue Incident Command Post;
 - c. Ensures that all officers involved are appropriately equipped and attired with suitable clothing, portable radios (tuned to the same frequency), a flashlight, and any other specialized equipment deemed necessary;
 - d. Arranges for the Department's Situation Maps to be brought to the scene, if deemed appropriate;
 - e. Arranges for a canine team to respond, if necessary, and;
 - f. Requests air support, if necessary, from MC-10 and/or a police helicopter, unless already requested by the Fire/Rescue Incident Commander.

3. Officers participating in the search and rescue operation shall:
 - a. Keep the supervisor informed as to their location and status so that maps can reflect the areas covered by the search and to prevent officers from becoming lost or disoriented;
 - b. Make no attempt to rescue a person injured or trapped, unless in a life-threatening situation (i.e., CPR necessary, a fire is threatening the injured person, etc.); and
 - c. Document the specific location where the person is found, paying particular attention to any indications of foul-play.

III. GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCES

- General Order 607.1 - Notification of Command Staff and Peer Support
- General Order 607.2 - Notification of Investigators
- General Order 607.6 - Notification of Medical Examiner
- General Order 608.1 - Missing Persons
- General Order 609.1 - Canine Use
- General Order 902.1 - Missing, Runaway, Abandoned, Abducted, Found or Unidentified Juveniles
- General Order 1101.1 – Protecting and Processing Crime Scenes
- General Order 1102.1 - Suicide Notes