Pleasant Valley Fire District

Standard Operating Guidelines

SOG #28 – SWIFT WATER OPERATIONS

PURPOSE: To provide members guidance when operating in a swift water environment, including flood conditions.

GUIDELINES:

1. All members should wear proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) (as specified in SOG#2) in the hot zone (minimum of 10 feet from shoreline).

2. Minimum of two ALS ambulances should be requested, in addition to the two PVFD ambulances.

3. Only properly trained Swift Water Technicians personnel should enter the water.

4. Incident Commander (IC) should ensure proper assistance is dispatched to the scene.

5. Hot/Warm/Cold Zones should be established and followed.

6. Police should be notified to assist with crowd control, if necessary.

7. EMS should be staged in Warm Zone to provide patient care.

8. Vehicle placement should be considered to ensure rapid ingress/egress for ambulances.

9. With a confirmed patient in the water, the IC should ensure a qualified Dive Team is notified.

10. In the case of non-qualified personnel on scene, all rescue attempts should be performed from the shoreline.

11. Upstream Observer and downstream Safety Team (equipped with rope throw-bag) in proper hot zone PPE should be established.