ROPE RESCUE RESPONSE

PURPOSE:

To establish a procedure for personnel responding to rope rescue incidents, ensuring safe and efficient operations using proper rope systems, edge control, and patient movement techniques.

PROCEDURE:

1. **First-in Apparatus**
   - First in E/M/L shall go to the address toned, secure RP, and establish scene control.
   - If a confirmed rope rescue, deliver the Tech Rescue IRR and request the following additional resources as applicable:
     - Rescue61
     - Battalion Chief
     - Additional technical rescue-qualified personnel
   - Don minimum PPE: helmet, eye protection, gloves, and boots.
   - Establish exclusion zone within 10 feet of edge unless fall protection is in place.
   - Isolate and deny entry, 300'.
   - Secure competent person, determine number and location of victims.
   - Establish communication plan using voice, department radio, team radio, and/or whistle.
   - Interface with LE or other responding agencies as needed.

2. **Upon arrival, Tech Rescue crews should be prepared to:**
   - Establish rope access systems (lowering, raising, mechanical advantage).
   - Assign roles (IC, Edge, Belay, Over-the-edge Rescuer, Litter Attendant).
   - Prepare for victim access and removal using appropriate anchoring and rope movement techniques.
   - Utilize appropriate rope commands throughout the operation.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- All personnel within 10' of an unprotected edge must be in fall protection or secured by rope system.
- Redundancy in rope systems is required—at minimum, main and belay lines.
- Scene size-up should include terrain hazards, victim access route, and potential anchors.
- Technical Safety officer shall be assigned, early to ensure system integrity and personnel safety.
- IC-1 should establish command and direct incoming resources.
- IC-2: Establish or integrate into Unified Command structure, especially for large-scale or extended events.