

Operating Guideline # 103
PFD's
Created September 16, 2019
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines to describe the use of Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) and to protect personnel when working near water.

GUIDELINE:

1. All Muskoka Lakes Fire Department personal shall wear supplied Transport Canada approved Personal Flotation Devices when engaged in emergency operations or training exercises near water bodies where there is the potential to fall into the water.
2. Where full protective clothing is worn, the Incident Commander should assigned two firefighters as a function of R.I.T. (each wearing a PFD and equipped with throw bags in the immediate area) to rescue any firefighter who may fall in the water.
3. All Muskoka Lakes Fire Department personal shall wear Transport Canada approved Personal Flotation Devices when operating portable pumps or placing suction lines in static water sources such as a lake, river or pond, the following minimum protective equipment will be worn: boots, bunker pants, helmet, gloves and PFD.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all members to comply with the provisions of this OG and particularly that Company Officers (supervisors) and firefighters (workers) ensure that they adhere to their duties in accordance with the provisions of this document and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

DEFINITIONS:

“Personal Flotation Device (PFD)” means a “life jacket” or device approved by Transport Canada.

REFERENCES:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act (RSO 1990, c. 0.1)
- Section 21 Committee Guidance Note GN-6-02, Firefighting Near Water
- MLFD OG 205 – Use of Water Craft
- MLFD OC 208 – Rapid Intervention Teams
- MLFD OG 602 – Water Supply, Rural Fire Operations
- MLFD OG 1401 – Water/Ice Rescue