



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Special Operations Section

Swift Water Rescue Team



Swift Water Rescue Team Orientation

Team Website

Most team information can be found on the team's website www.rrats.org

Upon being accepted to the team I have given you access to the team website.

-To log in, click on the patch on the upper right corner.

-Your initial user name will be: first initial and last name together (George Washington would be gwashington)

-Your password will be: new1234

Once you log in you can change it to whatever you want and it never needs to be changed. -

Once logged onto the website users can find the team organizational structure, training lesson plans, polices, information bulletins, and many other helpful documents to help you with your training packet.

The checkoff packet for SWBC can be found on the website under Documents.

If you forget your password, contact Assistant Team Leader Lieutenant Gillis to have it reset.

Training

You will be required to complete the Swift Water Rescue Technician Course. This class is offered across all three shifts in Montgomery County as well as in the surrounding jurisdictions each year. If you have any outside agency training, you may request equivalency for that training. The training must have taken place within three years of your request for equivalency and must be from a nationally recognized program. Submit your request with your certificate and course description to the Swift Water Training Officer Captain Stream. You will also be required to complete the Swift Water Boat Crew packet. Once you start your packet you can have any team member who has crew status provide lessons. Testing is to be done by a SWBO team member. It is your responsibility to ensure that your training is signed for as it is completed.

Logistics

New members may request gear from the logistics officer, Master Firefighter Hobson. Contact the logistics officer via email to inquire as to the availability of gear and an appointment to receive the gear. There is also a feature on the website to follow for damaged or lost items. Please review this feature and/or have a team member explain the process.

Team alerting process

Once a member completes their personal information on the team website they can be entered into the team alerting system. This system is used to send voice messages to the phone number you provide. When contacted the calling number will always be the same so you can save it as a contact. **The Phone Number is (877) 565-8456**. If you did not get all the information from the call you can simply call the number back and it will play again. You can do this until the message is overwritten by a new one. Team personnel are selected for the calls, so you will only get a call if it applies to you.



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EMS

New members should familiarize themselves with the EMS equipment available on the Swift Water units. While most items are the same as those on county EMS units there are some differences. The bag itself is unique to the swift water rescue team, and there are a few items that are not common to county ambulances.

Pre-deployment process

When it is decided to place additional water rescue assets in service due to expected flooding. The Team leaders in consultation with the Special Operations Chief and the Duty Operations Chief will decide the extent of the desired up staffing. Once this is decided it will be determined how many additional Swift Water personnel will be required to meet the desired goal. If additional personnel are needed to meet the desired goal they will be selected by surveying those personnel posted as available on the team website and/or in telestaff under the OT special events signup code. Specific directions will be given with each notification. As a general rule non consolidated personnel will not be moved to meet these staffing needs. Other factors taken into consideration when hiring are Swift Water qualifications to make up Swift Water Teams.

Swift Water Rescue Team terms

SWBC (Swift Water Boat Crew) - qualified to operate on incidents as a boat crew member

SWBO (Swift Water Boat Operator) - qualified to operate as a boat operator in any water conditions

SWO (Swift Water Officer) – qualified to be in charge of an individual swift water team

Swift Water Team – A group of four personnel with two boats. Two of the personnel will be SWBC and the other two SWBO, with one being a SWO

TFL (Task Force Leader) – qualified officer in charge of multiple swift water teams and will be in charge of assigned swift water personnel during a deployment.

I have read through the Swift Water Rescue Team Orientation sheet and do not have any further questions as they pertain to the information covered here.

Signature

Printed Name