

	<b>LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> <b>Ardmore, Pennsylvania</b>	
	<b>Policy 3.21.6</b>	
Subject:		Distribution:
<b>Water Rescue</b>		<b>All Sworn Personnel</b>
Date of Issue:	Expiration Date:	Rescinds:
<b>06-01-2014</b>	<b>Until Amended or Rescinded</b>	<b>Directive: 00-22</b>
References:		
<b>CALEA: N/A; PLEAC: N/A</b>		
By Authority of:		
		<b>Superintendent of Police</b>

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure for the response to water rescue situations and the utilization of water rescue devices.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **A. PATROL RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. It is the responsibility of patrol officers to respond to water rescue/drowning incidents in a safe and expeditious manner.
2. Upon arrival, if it is determined that a victim is in distress, the responding officer is to immediately notify Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch (MCED) of the nature of the incident and request the appropriate personnel necessary to aid the victim.
3. Emergency Medical Services are to be requested and dispatched. If necessary, Fire Department Rescue equipment will be requested.
4. In appropriate situations, a water rescue device should be deployed. Rescue devices are located in the twelve beat cars, 12 car, 28 car and all sergeant vehicles. If a water rescue device is unavailable, attempt to provide anything that can float to the person in distress (i.e., spare tire, etc.).

### **B. DEPLOYING A WATER RESCUE DEVICE**

1. The ResQ Disc is a flotation device attached to a 100-foot length of line.
2. Release the line by pulling on the Velcro strap and unwind 20 feet or more of line letting it drop to the ground.

3. Grasp onto the rope end loop with your first two fingers of your non-throwing hand.
4. Hold the ResQ Disc in your throwing hand with your thumb positioned in the thumb indent.
5. Pull your throwing hand back behind you and then bring it forward in a horizontal motion, releasing the disc like a frisbee towards the person in distress. The disc will rotate shedding the flotation line towards the victim.
6. The victim can grab either the disc or rope and be pulled to safety.

### **C. CARE OF EQUIPMENT**

1. The water rescue device should be dried, to the extent possible, following its deployment and prior to being stored in the vehicle.
2. Care should be taken when rewinding the device after use, to avoid tangling or knotting of the rope. Rewind all ResQ Discs for a right hand throw (if wound for a left-hand throw, it will not work as effectively when thrown right-handed). This is to ensure that the equipment will work properly upon its next usage.
3. An examination of the device should be made during the pre-tour daily vehicle inspection to ascertain that it is in proper condition to be deployed.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of all supervisory personnel to ensure that all personnel under their immediate supervision comply with this policy.