

# FLORENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

<b>Subject:</b> <b>WATER RESCUE AND RECOVERY TEAM</b>	<b>Procedure:</b> General Order 24.2.5 CALEA 46.2	<b>Total Pages:</b> 6
<b>Authorizing Signature:</b>  Original with Authorizing Signature on File	<b>Effective:</b> 01/01/2011 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>New</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Amended</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Rescinds</b>	

**I. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Florence Police Department to maintain search and rescue, and other waterborne public safety capabilities utilizing a Water Rescue and Recovery Team (WRRT).

**II. PURPOSE**

This written order establishes guidelines for the utilization of the WRRT.

**III. SCOPE**

This written order is applicable to all sworn personnel, particularly those assigned to the Florence Police Water Rescue and Recovery Team.

**IV. RESPONSIBILITY**

All personnel associated with the WRRT are responsible for complying with this directive.

**V. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- A. The Florence Police WRRT provides waterborne public safety services to the waterways and local geographical areas that may only be accessible by the Tennessee River waterways.
- B. The WRRT will render aid when requested by outside agencies.
- C. The WRRT operates under “Unified Command” when activated. The team is led by a Sergeant and when activated, falls under the Special Operations/Events Commander.
- D. WRRT capabilities include underwater evidence collection, body recovery, water rescues, and searches on the water or land adjacent to the water.
- E. WRRT may also enforce boating laws, assist boats in distress, and ensure safety on the waterways.
- F. The WRRT is often utilized for special events and/or for special assignments as needed.

**VI. WRRT GENERAL DUTIES:**

- A. WRRT COMMANDER:

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1. Approves all operations of the teams' watercraft.
  2. Authorizes final approval of all team members once selected.
  3. Acts as a liaison with the U.S. Coast Guard, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Alabama Marine Police, and other entities as needed.
  4. Ensures all maintenance, preventative and/or corrective, to the watercraft is completed.
  5. Makes sure all WRRT openings are posted in a timely manner and ensures that all new team members receive the proper training, as needed.
  6. Reviews all float plans and incident reports submitted as a result of WRRT incidents.
- B. WRRT Team Leader(s):
1. Act as the commander in his/her absence.
  2. Assigned to oversee team equipment: This leader is responsible for maintaining an inventory of all equipment. This inventory is to be done every six months and it includes maintaining service logs on all equipment.
  3. Assigned to oversee operations: This leader is responsible for maintaining a dive log on all divers. He/she is required to maintain a training folder on all members, and he/she must make sure that all members remain current on all needed training.
- C. WRRT Members:
1. Are assigned to one of the sections on the Team, either Operations or Maintenance.
  2. Those in the Operations section are responsible for training and maintaining the dive skills of team members.
  3. Those in the Maintenance section are responsible for the upkeep and inventory of all gear.
  4. All members are accountable for gear that is assigned and issued to them.
  5. All members must ensure that a personnel log is maintained on their dives as well as any non-dive training that is conducted.

**VII. WRRT QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. WRRT TEAM MEMBERS:
1. Must be a full time paid employee with the Florence Police Department.

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2. Must be able to operate a watercraft or be able to be trained to do so within six months of selection.
  3. Must be a certified diver or be able to become a certified diver within one year of selection to the team.
  4. Must have an Alabama vessel license or obtain an Alabama vessel license within two months of selection to the team.
  5. Must complete the selection process which includes team tryouts and an oral interview, prior to being considered for selection by the current team members.
- B. WRRT SELECTION REQUIREMENTS:
1. PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:
    - a. Rescue Scenarios – Two water based scenarios;
    - b. Freestyle Swim – 300 yards, timed;
    - c. Ten minutes of treading water – five minutes with a 4lb weight, and five minutes without the weight;
    - d. Underwater swim – Dive in at the deep end and swim as far as the person can underwater. Each candidate gets two attempts; and
    - e. Mask, fins, and snorkel swim – 150 yards, timed.
    - f. There will be a five minute break between events.
  2. DIVE REQUIREMENTS – CERTIFIED DIVERS
    - a. Assemble dive gear;
    - b. Basic skills test; and a
    - c. PVC puzzle.
  3. DIVE REQUIREMENTS – NON-CERTIFIED DIVERS
    - a. Aid in assembling gear;
    - b. Basic underwater assessment; and
    - c. A supervised dive.
  4. ORAL INTERVIEW
    - a. Each team member will ask two questions;
    - b. Each applicant presents a brief bio.
- C. WRRT WATERCRAFT:
1. PRIOR TO OPERATION OF WRRT WATERCRAFT, each operator:
    - a. Must be approved by the Team Commander;

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- b. Must have a current Alabama vessel license;
  - c. Must have completed (or complete within one year of selection) the US Coast Guard Boater Skills and Seamanship Course; and
  - d. Must have had training on loading, unloading, and towing a vessel.
2. Team members will ensure that the watercraft(s) are properly cleaned and maintained after each use.
  3. A vessel Operation Float Plan will be completed whenever the watercraft(s) are used. A copy will be left with dispatch and the original is left for the Team Commander. (See attachments)
  4. No less than two officers (at least one is a WRRT team member) will be on board at all times when the vessel is underway.
  5. No less than two divers and one boat operator will be on board in order to complete a dive mission.

**VIII. CALLOUT AND DEPLOYMENT**

- A. DIVE INCIDENTS: Team members may be called out or deployed during the following types of incidents:
  1. EMERGENCY DIVE INCIDENT – generally considered a rescue mission wherein the divers are needed to save a human life;
  2. IMMEDIATE DIVE INCIDENTS – generally considered a recovery mission wherein the divers are needed to recover a body or piece of crucial evidence;
  3. ROUTINE DIVE INCIDENT – generally considered a low priority mission wherein the divers are needed to conduct follow-up or support activities;
  4. On any dive incident, two divers and one vessel operator will be required.
- B. WATER INCIDENTS: Team members may also be called out or deployed during the following types of incidents:
  1. EMERGENCY WATER INCIDENTS – WRRT is called to assist:
    - a. A marine unit requesting backup; or
    - b. Incidents of flooding where human life is in danger; or
    - c. When a person is threatening suicide; or
    - d. Incidents involving a boat fire or accident.
  2. IMMEDIATE WATER INCIDENT – Generally, occurs when a section of the waterway needs to be blocked due to a spill or

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accident.

3. ROUTINE WATER INCIDENTS – Generally, when water patrol is needed due to a special event or when additional enforcement is needed.
4. On any water incident, two officers (at least one of whom is a WRRT Team member) are required.

**IX. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS**

**A. EQUIPMENT**

1. Personal dive gear can be used but must be approved by the Team Commander;
2. Personal boating gear can be used but must be approved by the Team Commander;
3. Privately owned watercraft can be used by the WRRT upon approval by the Chief of Police.

**B. UNIFORMS**

1. SWIMWEAR:
  - a. Males – wear navy blue colored suits with a tie string. No brief style swimwear is authorized.
  - b. Females – wear navy blue, one piece swimsuits, with shoulder straps.
  - c. The designated shirt, listed below, shall be worn when not in the water.
2. PATROL WEAR:
  - a. Navy blue shorts or pants, 5.11 style;
  - b. Tan or white t-shirt with the FPD logo on the back and WRRT patch on the front; or a tan or white polo style shirt with FPD badge embroidered on the front.
  - c. Black nylon or leather gear with a minimum of:
    - 1) weapon;
    - 2) spare ammo;
    - 3) handcuffs;
    - 4) radio; and
    - 5) flashlight.
3. FOOT WEAR – shall be a soft sole, non-marking shoe.
4. JACKET:

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- a. Department issued jacket;
  - b. Plain clothes approved jacket; or
  - c. a floatation Coast Guard approved jacket.
5. HEADGEAR:
- a. Baseball style issued hat;
  - b. Tan or navy blue boonie hat; or
  - c. Navy blue or black watch or beanie style cap.
6. COVERALLS – Navy blue
7. If the member is responding on an emergency callout, a professional appearance will be maintained if he/she cannot meet the requirements as stated above.
- C. FORMS
1. Vessel Operation Float Plan – attachment 1
  2. WRRT Incident Report – attachment 2
  3. Pre-Dive Checklist – attachment 3
  4. Dive Training Report – attachment 4
  5. Dive Log – attachment 5