

Boat Operations

335.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the utilization of the District's Fire/Rescue Boat.

This policy shall apply to all personnel operating within the Incident Management System of the SFRD.

335.3 GENERAL

- The Sanibel Fire/Rescue will operate in compliance with all local, state, and federal requirements and regulations.
- Personnel shall operate the boat safely; operators must always be aware of their limitations and operate accordingly.
- Boat operations shall normally not be conducted when the seas are greater than 6 feet, or wind condition exceeds a sustained wind speed of 25 knots.,. The on scene commander shall have discretion in granting exemptions for these operating parameters.
- Sanibel Fire/Rescue boat response shall include the areas designated by the MERT operational zone map. Response off shore will not exceed 10 miles. Response outside this area will be at the discretion of the Chief Officers.
- Operations shall be terminated if lightning is present in the area.
- Max personnel (passengers and crew) will not exceed 10 people
- Operational water depth is three (3) feet. Depths less than this will be navigated with EXTREME caution and at slow speeds (clutch ahead).

335.4 SAFETY

- Personnel shall wear the issued Coast Guard approved PFD at all times during boat operations.
- Boat operators shall always attach the lanyard kill switch to their PFD.
- Posted speed limits and no wake areas must be observed. The boat can generate bow and stern wakes; operators are responsible for their waves and wakes.
- Use caution to avoid injuring persons in the water when approaching them in the boat. The engines shall be in neutral when deploying or recovering patients..

335.4 TRAINING

All Fire Boat Operators must successfully complete the boat operator task book, be evaluated, and and possess a valid Florida Boating Safety Education I.D. Card

Sanibel Fire and Rescue District

Fire Policy Manual

Boat Operations

Fire Boat training shall be conducted every Friday, providing weather and other conditions permit. Should Friday's boat training be canceled for any reason it will be made up the following Monday. The training shall consist of the following:

- Launching the boat
- Launch the boat off lift
- Proper starting procedures
- Boat handling and operation
- Operation of the fire pump
- Area familiarization
- Docking procedures
- Loading the boat on the trailer or lift
- Execute search patterns
- Compute Set and Drift
- Man overboard drills
- Electronics familiarization

Personnel shall display proficiency in all the above categories and complete the Boat Operator Task Book to be signed off as a boat operator.

The company officer shall document the purpose of the training, the personnel who participated, and the total time invested.

SFRD skills assessment should be completed annually and in compliance with the current CBA.