

# El Dorado County Fire Protection District Standard Operating Guideline

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**Article: 3 Emergency Operations**  
**Section: 25 Rope Rescue Operations**

Adopted: 02-17-2022  
Revised:

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## I.

### **Purpose:**

El Dorado County Fire Protection District will follow the procedures outlined in this policy while operating on incidents that require the use of a rope rescue system.

Rope Rescue emergencies are generally high risk, low frequency events that require multi agency cooperation. By standardizing equipment, training, and procedures, we can provide quicker, safer, and competent service delivery to the citizens of El Dorado County.

It is the objective of El Dorado County Fire Protection District to utilize a system that is simple, will not delay emergency operations, is compatible with neighboring jurisdictions and follows the minimum standards from NFPA and State Fire Training guidelines. With this in mind, the system will be continually reevaluated in order to make any necessary operational and hardware adjustments.

The primary intention of the Rope Rescue Policy is to bring common terminology, standardized training, required equipment, and uniform ICS to El Dorado County Fire Protection District and surrounding agencies.

## II. **Standard**

1. Low Angle Rope Rescue refers to an environment with slopes of 15-40 degrees. 0 degrees is considered flat land and 90 degrees is considered completely vertical.
2. Low Angle Rescue is considered any environment that the "on rope" rescuer is predominantly able to support themselves and the load without relying on the rope system due to fall and/or slip hazards.
3. El Dorado County Fire Protection District will use the Rope Rescue policy when operating on an incident that requires LARRO (Low Angle Rope Rescue Operations) and/or High Angle in order to maintain cooperation and safe effective operations between agencies.
4. High Angle Rope Rescue refers to an environment with slopes greater than 41 degrees.

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5. High Angle Rescue is considered any environment that the “on rope” rescuer is predominantly supported by the rope system and relies solely on this system to prevent slips and or falls.

### III. Definitions

See El Dorado County FPD Training manual for definitions.

### IV. Procedure

1. ECF personnel shall utilize Rope Rescue Operations on all incidents where there is a potential for falls to the rescuer and victim.
2. ECF personnel shall utilize Rope Rescue Operations on all incidents where mechanical advantage would assist the rescuer(s) with raising victims and prevent injury to rescuer(s) and victims.
3. Ideal staffing is approximately 6-8 qualified rescuers. ECF personnel can utilize other personnel on scene with duties. Such as assisting with the haul team. Such personnel can include Caltrans, CHP, EDSO, Fish and Game, etc.
4. ECF shall use approved anchors unless environment suggest otherwise.
5. Each ECF Operational employee shall be trained up to Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational.
  - i. Annual LARRO training shall consist of 8 hours.
  - ii. Crews that are training in High Angle Operations shall complete an additional 8 hours.
  - iii. ECF will attempt to have 1 multi company drill for all shifts, engine companies and medic units.
  - iv. Module Training will include basic rope rescue drills to teach fundamentals and keep skills up to date.
  - v. All training records will be maintained in FIREHOUSE reporting system.
  - vi. System Review
    - a. This policy will be reviewed annually to confirm current practices are consistent with industry standards.

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6. Maintenance and Inspections
  - i. All Rope Rescue Equipment shall be inspected during weekly checks and after each use.
  - ii. Inventory will be confirmed
  - iii. Equipment condition will be documented.
  - iv. All equipment will be cleaned as needed.