



Keeping you Knowledgeable, Safe, and in Compliance!

**Ernest A. Emerson**  
**Fire Protection Resource Library**

## A Volume From the Library

### Winter is Coming... Are You Ready?

The winter season is upon us and with the cooler temps comes precipitation. Normally, Texans relish the relief from triple-digit heat, but the ice and snow that accompany winter weather introduces new dangers. Black ice, sleet, snow flurries, and flash floods from quickly melting snow and ice negatively impact emergency services at a time when demand is high.

#### Winter Road Safety

The weather creates hazards by reducing visibility on the road or increasing the likelihood of vehicular accidents - both for the departmental apparatus and for civilian vehicles. It is critical that each driver-operator be trained to drive to conditions and slow down when answering an emergency call in this type of

weather. Keep the apparatus "winter-ready" by performing regular maintenance checks and removing accumulated ice and snow after every run.

#### Cold Weather Rescues

Rescues in cold weather come with very unique complications. Ice can make even walking treacherous and snow drifts can make reaching the injured person time-consuming and labor-intensive. Add water to the cold temperature, and you may find yourself performing a rescue in an icy river.

In all circumstances, ensure your department has a plan to deal the season's changes. Learn from the mistakes made in previous winters and include updates in your plan to avoid them. Make sure your equipment is in good working order, and always watch your step!

November 19, 2014



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#### Additional Resources:

- [Cold-Weather Operations](#)
- [Winter Driving Tips for the Apparatus](#)
- [Wintertime Firefighting Operations](#)
- [Command concerns in wintertime](#)

### Training Videos

#### ICE STORM

**AV09-2376 Date Acquired: 12/3/2009 Length: 30:00 Format: DVD Author: AMERICAN HEAT via FETN**

On January 12-14, 2007, Springfield, Missouri, was the center of an ice storm that left 1.5 inches of ice covering 29 counties and over 200,000 people without power for days and even weeks. That followed on the heels of a similar event but of a lesser nature only 6 weeks prior. Most recently, large areas of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri suffered another severe ice storm that left one-third of all Oklahoma residents without power and led to the deaths of over 22 people. This course reviews the conditions that lead to major ice storms and how they impact emergency services. It also focuses on pre-incident preparation and operational considerations for incident mitigation. The lessons learned will provide basic principles that organizations can use to prepare for, and respond to, a wide range of natural disasters. (rel. 11/09, c2009)

SPECIAL TEAMS: INTRODUCTION TO ICE RESCUE (2 copies)

**AV10-2386, AV07-2184**

**Date Acquired: 2/10/2010 Length:**

**30:00 Format: DVD Author: FETN**

Ice rescue incidents pose special hazards to the responding personnel. If fire

personnel are not aware of the potential hazards, they could easily become victims themselves. Understanding the limits and capabilities of responding personnel can result in a successful ice rescue and ensure that the rescuers are not harmed. Part one of a two-part series, this course discusses incident planning, tactical operations, and safety concerns for rescue personnel at an ice-involved incident. Types of ice formations and the characteristics and potential hazards of ice are described. In addition, this course provides an overview of the signs and symptoms of hypothermia and its treatment. (rel. 8/06, c2009)

#### FIRE SERVICE RESCUE: WATER AND ICE RESCUE

**AV07-2127 Date Acquired: 6/28/2007 Length: 15:00 Format: DVD Author: ACTION TRAINING**

This program is Part 7 in the 10 part series Fire Service Rescue. Water, ice and surf create some of the most dangerous conditions rescue personnel can face. Knowing the tactics and techniques for rescues of this type can save lives and limit hazards to fellow rescuers. Topics covered are: water and ice rescue size up, performing water and swift water rescues, ice rescue procedures, and surf rescue. A lesson plan and PowerPoint

CD are available with this 10 part rescue series upon request for training officers and instructors. (2004)

#### FLOOD AND SWIFTWATER RESPONSE

**AV06-1955 Date Acquired: 6/28/2006 Length:**

**60:00 Format: DVD Author: FETN**

Floods can occur in any area at any time. Emergency response personnel must be prepared for the storm before it arrives and be prepared to deal with the damage it leaves behind. They must develop and utilize both community-based and systems-based approaches to ensure their response will be safe, effective and successful. This program focuses on the Charlotte, North Carolina Fire Department, and explains how they changed their response to floods and swiftwater rescues. A community-based systems approach to emergencies that includes education, prevention, and response activities and capabilities will be presented as well as a model that flood managers and responders use when making strategic decisions (SEA DEPTH). (2005)