

Swiftwater Flood Track

Thursday, May 28

1330-1500

Workshop Water #1, Swiftwater Flood – *Grand Ballroom, Salon A*

“Why Educate the Public?” -Why developing a public education program is a must!

Brian Ferguson and Phil Miller, Prince William Co Fire and Rescue

We have often heard “The safest rescue is the one I don’t have to do” so how do we educate the public to the dangers in flood and swift water? This program will look at a public education program done in Prince William County, Virginia specific to flood water dangers at a commuter rail station. We will look at several aspects of preparation involved before the program, what we did to educate the public and what follow up was conducted to determine success or failure of the program.

1530-1700

Workshop Water #2, Swiftwater Flood – *Grand Ballroom, Salon A*

TBA

TBA

TBA

Friday, May 29

0830-1000

Workshop Water #3, Swiftwater Flood – *Grand Ballroom, Salon A*

Building a Better Swiftwater Boat Operator

George Lewis, Rescue 3

This lecture will address the requirements and issues to train and maintain boat operators. Training requirements and training secrets will help team leaders develop a strategy for their boat operators. We will also take a look at what other departments have done to maintain their programs.

1100-1200

Workshop Water #4, Swiftwater Flood – *Grand Ballroom, Salon A*

A Review of the River Road Rescue from the On-Scene Commander

Steve Miller, Cabin John MD Fire and Rescue

Jim Resnick, Montgomery Co MD Fire Rescue Service

A review of the swiftwater rescue seen around the world live on TV. What happens when a 66” water main breaks and turns a crowded commuter road into a roaring river at rush hour? A review of methods used by individuals on scene by those individuals.

1330-1500

Workshop Water #5, Swiftwater Flood – *Grand Ballroom, Salon A*

Arkansas' Fire Boat Program - A Look at the History and Evolution of the Arkansas Fire Boat Program

Bill Barnes, Arkansas Fire Boat Program

This presentation will be a one-hour session on the history and evolution of the Arkansas' Fire Boat Program. We will present the need that prompted the Program and the initial relationship with the U.S. Forest Service at the beginning of the Program. We will then look at the evolution of that relationship and some of the problems encountered. There will also be a discussion of the equipment currently being used with a demonstration on the river using that equipment.

Saturday, May 30

0830-1000

Workshop Water #6, Swiftwater Flood – *Grand Ballroom, Salon A*

“Dangers of the Dark”- A Unique Perspective on Swiftwater Rescue Operations During Night Operations

Trey Smith, Rescue 3 SRT Instructor

In the wake of recent floods, responders are encountering a rise in the number of swiftwater emergencies during nighttime hours. Many technical rescue teams are discovering much of their equipment nor training incorporates night operations. The reduction in visibility significantly impacts our operations through psychological stress, logistical demands, injury rate, and dictates a change in tactics. The assumption night operations do not present any more danger than during daytime can become detrimental to the safety of personnel. Entering floodwaters at night is not avoidable but is not encouraged! This presentation focuses upon the various aspects of night operations among swiftwater rescue professionals. The presentation will also include an evaluation of new technology for night operations.

1030-1130

Workshop Water #7, Swiftwater Flood – *Grand Ballroom, Salon A*

Texas Task Force 1 – Responding Texas Style

Joint presentation by members of Texas Task Force 1

As one of the busiest water rescue groups in the United States, Texas Task Force 1 (TTF-1) has responded to many of the biggest events in the past several years. Members of TTF-1 will share their experiences and what they have learned with attendees. Specifically large area searches after hurricanes will be discussed and how they worked in Galveston in 2008.

1300-1500

Workshop Water #8, Swiftwater Flood – *Grand Ballroom, Salon A*

Applying Optimal Search Principles to Inland SAR

Jack Frost, USCG Search and Rescue

Colleen Kelle, Metron Inc.

The US Coast Guard has been using the Search and Rescue Optimal Planning System (SAROPS) for planning and evaluating maritime searches since 2007. SAROPS has been credited with several high-visibility “saves”. In 2008, SAROPS was applied to some follow-on searching for the wreckage of the aircraft Steve Fossett last flew, to explore issues in applying it to inland search. This presentation will describe the SAROPS approach to search planning, will detail how it was used in the follow-on search and how it might have been applied to the original search, and will discuss modifications required to fully adapt SAROPS to the inland SAR problem.

1530-1730

Workshop Water #9, Swiftwater Flood – *Grand Ballroom, Salon A*

The Strains on Safety: A Perspective on River Rescue in Montana during the Highwater of 2008

Cody Harris, The Whitewater Rescue Institute

Recreational use of rivers has increased exponentially over the past 10 years. This is true in Montana, as it is elsewhere. In Montana, however, the winters have been mild and the spring rivers low. But in the summer of 2008 this was not the case. As the winter snows melted, the rivers swelled to their highest flows in a decade. Recreational boaters, who had gained confidence on the tame spring flows of the past 10 years, were presented with the new challenges of high water. This proved, in some cases, to be devastating. We will look at a number of accidents that occurred and analyze the response, paying special attention to rescuer safety. This combination of increased numbers on rivers, and relative inexperience with high water, put great demands on Montana's volunteer Search and Rescue teams. Much can be learned from their experiences at keeping the team safe.