

**Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL**

Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: June 18, 2014
Topic: 8. Occupational Health & Safety	Replaces: NEW
Subject: 5.9 Personal Floatation Device	
Policy No. G.8.5.9	Page 1 of 1

PURPOSE

To provide guidance to the Paramedics when responding to a patient that requires extrication via water or working within close proximity of water.

APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMAs, Management

PROCEDURE

Paramedics are to adhere to Policy G 8.5.5. Patient Access Off Road Response (Snowmobile, Boat, ATV's) when responding to a call requiring the use of PFD's

- 1) Rescue is not the mandate of EMS. The mandate usually belongs with Police and Fire departments.
- 2) Patient extrication shall be performed in such a way as to ensure the safety of self, partner, patient and bystanders.
- 3) PFD's
 - must be used as per manufactures recommendations and Manitoulin-Sudbury EMS training
 - are required in all operations near, in or over water
 - must be stowed where it is quickly reachable and ready to wear
 - are designed to be worn on the **outside** of clothing
 - must be inspected for damage and a CO2 cylinder insertion before use
 - must be partially inflated when worn in temperatures below -4°C (40* F)
- 4) If PFDs are utilized and:
 - NOT discharged or inflated; they should be returned to their storage bag and placed back in the vehicle.
 - HAVE BEEN discharged or inflated: they should be returned to base for installation of a new CO2 cartridge and examination prior to being returned to service.

REFERENCE

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, *Patient Access Off Road Response (Snowmobile, Boat, ATV's)*, Policy and Procedure G. 8.5.5