

# Bowie Police Department - General Orders



TITLE: SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS		NUMBER: 801
EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/4/11		REVIEW DATE:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDS <input type="checkbox"/> RESCINDS		DATE:

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## I. POLICY

The Bowie Police Department will initiate or participate in search and rescue missions to the extent necessary to locate missing, lost, or unaccounted-for persons with the intent of removing them, if not trapped or injured, to a safe location, or to identify their location if they are trapped or injured, so that extrication and/or emergency medical treatment or evacuation can be accomplished by appropriately trained personnel.

## II. SEARCH AND RESCUE

- A. If a search and rescue operation involves Police **and** Fire/Rescue personnel, Department personnel will coordinate all efforts involving the search and rescue with the Fire/Rescue Incident Commander.
- B. The Officer-in-Charge of Department personnel participating in a search and rescue mission will:
  1. Ensure that the Supervisor, Patrol Commander and the Chief of Police are notified as soon as practical;
  2. Establish a command post in close proximity to the Fire/Rescue Incident Command Post;
  3. Ensure that all Officers involved are appropriately equipped and attired with suitable clothing, portable radios (tuned to the same frequency), flashlight, and any other specialized equipment deemed necessary.
  4. Arrange for the Department's City of Bowie maps to be brought to the scene, if deemed appropriate;
  5. Authorize a trained Officer to use a departmental bicycle, if the terrain is not suitable for searches by conventional motor vehicles;
  6. Request the assistance of PGPD Canine teams to respond; and,

7. If necessary, request air support from PGPD, MSP or U.S Park Police helicopter, unless already requested by the Fire/Rescue Incident Commander.
- C. Officers participating in the search and rescue mission will:
1. Keep the Officer-in-Charge informed as to their location and status so that maps can reflect the areas covered by the search and to prevent Officers from becoming disoriented;
  2. Make no attempt to rescue a person injured or trapped, unless the person is in a life-threatening situation (i.e., CPR is necessary, a fire is threatening the injured person, etc.); and,
  3. Document the specific location where the person is found, paying particular attention to any indications of foul-play.
- D. If the Maryland State Police helicopter or any other police helicopter responds and lands at or near the scene, Officers will follow the below procedures.
1. Officers will not approach a helicopter that has landed or is landing until told to do so by a member of the crew;
  2. Officers will only approach the helicopter from the Safe Zone (head-on) where they are visible to the pilot;
  3. Officers will secure all loose clothing and objects when around the helicopter;
  4. Only trained personnel are to approach the aircraft to either load or offload patients;
  5. No unauthorized persons are allowed within 150 feet of the aircraft;
  6. Officers may not smoke or run within 150 feet of the aircraft;
  7. Officers will not lift anything above shoulder-height (i.e., I.V. bags, etc.); and
  8. Officers will use hearing and eye protection, if available, around the aircraft when the helicopter's engine is running.