



Jack Johnson

Deputy Chief – Operations Division

Grand Rapids Fire Dept.
Technical Rescue Team

Overview

- 36 Team Members
- 1 Chief Officer
- 1 Medium Duty Rescue
- 1 Tractor Drawn Heavy Rescue
- 2 GRFD Rescue Companies
- 15 Members also serve on the GRFD Haz-mat or Water Rescue teams 42%



Response Disciplines

Primary

Rope Rescue – 90 hr.

Tower Rescue – 40 hr.

Collapse Rescue – 100 hr.

Trench Rescue – 80 hr.

Confined Space Rescue – 72 hr.

Machine / Industrial Rescue – 48 hr.

Advanced / Heavy Vehicle Extrication – 80hr.

Elevator Rescue – 24 hr

Support / Secondary

- Swift Water Rescue
- Hazardous Materials





National, Statewide and Regional Collaboration

- Michigan Task Force 1
 - Multi-Agency response force deployed to large scale, natural or man-made disasters.
 - Intra state via MI-MABAS
 - Inter state via EMAC requests. (MSP & Governor's office)
 - 6 GRFD TRT Members
 - GRFD TRT Validated for MABAS response (Only team in Michigan that is a single-agency technical rescue team)



Incidents

- Assisted Water Rescue Team with several rescues; continued training with WRT to improve coordination
- Three Michigan Task Force 1 deployments: to Texas for severe flooding, to South Carolina for severe flooding caused by Hurricane Debby; to North Carolina for severe flooding, mud slides, and building collapses caused by Hurricane Helene.
- Shoring operation of a compromised structure from a vehicle accident
- Mobilized for Kalamazoo/Portage tornado touchdowns
- Deployed to assist Portage FD on a Trench Rescue

Strategic Plan alignment

- Strategic Priority: Safe Community
- The City's Strategic Plan (updated October 2022) identifies Safe Community as one of six high-level priorities. The defined outcome is that “all people feel safe and are safe at all times throughout our community.”
- The Tech Rescue Team falls directly under this priority by:
 - Providing specialized rescue services that protect lives and property during structural collapses, industrial accidents, water emergencies, and other high-risk incidents.
 - Enhancing overall community safety through rigorous training and readiness for rare but catastrophic emergency scenarios.



Future

Continue to offer high quality training for Tech Rescue Team Members

Including:

- Rope Rescue Operations 40 hour
- Tower Rescue Technician 40 hour
- Rescue from Trees (arborist rescue)