

Policy, Plans, Guidelines, and Standards Assessment & Implementation

The development of this action plan included a structured assessment of Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue's current policies, operational guidelines, training standards, and response procedures related to vehicle extrication and roadway incident management. This review was conducted to identify gaps, outdated practices, and opportunities to improve how the department prioritizes responder and patient safety during motor vehicle collision responses.

The assessment revealed that while existing policies provide a general framework for emergency response, several components require modernization to reflect current best practices in vehicle extrication, evolving vehicle construction technologies, and updated firefighter safety standards. In particular, advancements in vehicle safety design (high-strength steels, hybrid/electric systems, and integrated restraint systems) have outpaced some of the department's legacy extrication procedures and equipment guidance.

As part of the improvement process, the department incorporated findings from recent hands-on training with **Elite Extrication and Equipment**, which highlighted updated industry standards for safe and efficient vehicle extrication. These insights reinforced the need to revise internal operational guidelines to align with current rescue techniques and safety expectations.

Implementation Through Revised Policies and Standards

The action plan includes the formal adoption of revised and/or new policies, guidelines, and operational standards to ensure consistency and safety across all response personnel. These updates will be integrated into Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue's standard operating procedures (SOPs) and training programs.

Key policy and guideline updates will include:

- Adoption of updated vehicle extrication procedures consistent with modern rescue standards
- Standardization of stabilization and patient access techniques for high-risk vehicle incidents
- Updated safety protocols for hybrid and electric vehicle incidents
- Revised interagency response procedures with **Yachats Rural Fire Protection District** to ensure unified operational practices during mutual aid responses
- Equipment usage standards aligned with newly acquired extrication tools and technology

These revisions ensure that operational priorities consistently emphasize firefighter safety, patient survivability, and efficient incident management along high-risk corridors such as **U.S. Route 101** and **Oregon Route 34**.

Summary

Through this structured assessment and policy update process, Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue is actively transitioning from legacy operational practices to a modernized, standards-based approach to vehicle extrication and roadway incident response. The implementation of revised policies, guidelines, and standards ensures that safety is systematically prioritized, and that personnel are equipped with the procedures and expectations necessary to operate effectively in today's emergency response environment.