

# Action Plan Documents

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this action plan is to enhance the vehicle extrication capabilities of **Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue** by replacing outdated equipment, improving firefighter training, and strengthening regional cooperation during motor vehicle collision responses. The department serves the coastal community of Waldport, Oregon and responds frequently to vehicle accidents along **U.S. Route 101** and **Oregon Route 34**, both of which experience high traffic volumes and challenging roadway conditions.

Improving extrication equipment and training will reduce patient access time, improve firefighter safety, and increase operational efficiency during vehicle rescue incidents.

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## 2. Current Situation

Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue responds to a significant number of motor vehicle accidents each year along the coastal highway corridor and inland routes. These incidents often involve:

- High-speed collisions on Highway 101
- Severe vehicle damage and entrapment
- Tourist traffic unfamiliar with local roads
- Incidents occurring during adverse weather conditions
- Limited immediate access to advanced trauma care due to rural location

Much of the department's hydraulic rescue equipment is aging and does not reflect the capabilities needed to safely extricate occupants from modern vehicles constructed with high-strength steels, reinforced frames, and advanced safety systems.

In addition, many newer vehicle designs require updated rescue techniques and specialized tools to safely remove doors, roofs, and structural components.

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## 3. Recent Training Initiative

On Monday April 13th, the department was part of a hands-on extrication training with **Elite Extrication and Equipment**. This training provided firefighters with:

- Modern extrication techniques
- Updated stabilization practices
- Tool placement strategies for modern vehicles
- Practical exercises on vehicle dismantling and patient access
- Certification in NFPA Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue Technician

The training highlighted both the importance of continuous education and the limitations of some of the department's current rescue equipment. Participants were able to compare older hydraulic and battery tools with newer high-performance systems capable of faster and safer vehicle disassembly.

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#### 4. Project Goals

The department's action plan focuses on three major objectives:

##### 1. Upgrade Extrication Equipment

- Replace aging hydraulic and battery rescue tools with modern battery-powered high-performance systems.
- Improve cutting, spreading, and ramming capabilities to handle modern vehicle construction materials.
- Increase tool reliability and reduce setup time during emergency responses.

##### 2. Expand Training Opportunities

- Continue hands-on extrication training for firefighters using modern rescue scenarios.
- Incorporate vehicle technology awareness training for hybrid and electric vehicles.
- Provide multi-company drills focusing on rapid patient access and safe stabilization.

##### 3. Strengthen Interagency Coordination

Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue regularly works alongside **Yachats Rural Fire Protection District** on vehicle crashes occurring between Waldport and Yachats along Highway 101 and highway 34. Currently Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue is in a county wide mutual aid agreement where we could also respond to highway 18 and highway 20.

The departments plan to expand joint training and incident planning efforts in order to:

- Standardize extrication techniques and terminology
- Improve interoperability between rescue equipment

- Conduct coordinated drills for large or complex vehicle collisions
  - Strengthen mutual aid response capabilities
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## 5. Implementation Strategy

### Phase 1: Equipment Acquisition

- Identify and purchase updated hydraulic rescue tools.
- Replace outdated cutters, spreaders, and rams.
- Ensure compatibility with regional mutual aid equipment.

### Phase 2: Department Training

- Conduct department-wide extrication training using the new equipment.
- Schedule annual refresher courses and scenario-based exercises.
- Integrate new vehicle technology hazards into training curriculum.

### Phase 3: Regional Training and Planning

- Coordinate joint extrication drills with Yachats Fire.
  - Develop shared incident action plans for major highway collisions.
  - Establish regular interagency training opportunities.
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## 6. Expected Outcomes

Implementation of this plan will result in:

- Faster and safer vehicle extrications
- Reduced patient access time during motor vehicle collisions
- Improved firefighter safety
- Enhanced regional cooperation between neighboring fire agencies
- Increased readiness for complex rescue incidents along Highway 101 and Highway 34

Ultimately, this project will improve emergency response capabilities for residents and visitors traveling through the Waldport area while ensuring firefighters have the tools and training necessary to operate safely and effectively.