



# Buxton Fire-Rescue

## Standard Operating Guideline

Subject: Moderate Risk – Public Assists (2)

Section: Flooded Basements (1)

Date Approved: April 5, 2013

*Nate R. Lee*



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### PURPOSE:

To establish a guideline for handling water problems within a residence isolated to the basement area.

### PROCEDURE:

The district engine will be assigned to investigate all water problems. Response to water problems is a Code 1 Response.

In the event of standing water in the basement, **DO NOT ENTER** – water may be energized and cause death or serious injury.

### ELECTRICAL/FURNACE NOTES:

If the level of the water is at the level of electrical appliances or the furnace, ensure that both the furnace switch and the electrical equipment's power are secured. However, do not enter the water to access an electrical panel to secure a breaker. If the water is causing interior electrical problems, and the only electrical panel to secure the power is in the basement, and is not accessible by fire crews, the Incident Commander may request Central Maine Power for a meter disconnect.

### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS NOTES:

During the investigation the engine company may observe a sheen of Fuel Oil or K-1 on the top of the water. In the event of a sheen being found, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) shall be contacted (via dispatch) and notified of the potential spill of environmental contamination as a result of water removal. In the event that DEP is responding to the scene to mitigate the spill of hazardous materials, the homeowner/building agent shall be notified, and informed of the action plan set by DEP.

The crew should ensure the homeowner/building agent understands the negative impacts that the pumping operations may have on the surrounding environment.

It is not the policy of the department to pump basements. However, command officer's are encouraged to inform the homeowner/building agent of services that are offered by local vendors (i.e. plumbers, Serv Pro, etc.). If there are no fire hazards the fire crews may clear and let the homeowner and/or DEP mitigate the problem.

### RESPONDING AGENCY(S):

Fire-Rescue Department  
Department of Environmental Protection

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*Not a Seal*

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Cleaning/Mitigation Company

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GEAR:**

If it is determined that the basement will be pumped, based on extreme circumstances, the following PPE is required:

- Safety Glasses
- Structural Fire Boots
- Leather Gloves
- Helmet

**GREEN**