



CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF OPERATIONS



Operations Order: 25-005
April 7, 2025

SUBJECT: EMS RESCUE SHEARS

I. PURPOSE

This Order:

- A. Defines the EMS Rescue Shears
- B. Establishes the issuance of the EMS Rescue Shears
- C. Establishes the appropriate use, care, storage, inventory, and replacement of the EMS Rescue Shears; and
- D. Becomes effective immediately.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) to provide first responders with the necessary tools to effectively and safely cut through heavy materials during emergency incidents, ensuring the timely and efficient delivery of care.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **EMS Rescue Shears**: A durable multi-tool designed specifically for use by medical professionals to cut through heavy-duty fabrics, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), to ensure effective and efficient patient care during emergencies.



IV. PROCEDURE

- A. The following companies shall be issued two (2) EMS Rescue Shears with protective holsters:
 - 1. All Ambulance Companies
- B. The following companies shall be issued one (1) EMS Rescue Shears with protective holster:
 - 1. All Paramedic Field Chief vehicles
 - 2. All Assistant Deputy Chief Paramedic vehicles
 - 3. Other companies or response vehicles, as determined by the Fire Commissioner
- C. Company Officers shall document the receipt of the EMS Rescue Shears in the Company Journal and update all relevant inventories accordingly.
- D. Ambulance Companies shall store **one** EMS Rescue Shears in the Adult Quick Response Bag (**QRB**), unfolded in its protective holster, and **one** EMS Rescue Shears in the ambulance **patient compartment**, also unfolded in its the protective holster.
- E. ADCPs and PFCs shall store the EMS Rescue Shears inside their vehicles in a readily accessible location.
- F. Any damage or deficiencies identified in the EMS Rescue Shears during daily inspections shall be reported immediately to the Company Officer, who will notify the Division of EMS Logistics for repair or replacement, as needed.
- G. Lost, stolen, or damaged EMS Rescue Shears shall be reported and documented in compliance with current Department policies and procedures and replaced through the EMS Logistics Division.



V. OPERATIONAL USE OF THE EMS RESCUE SHEARS

- A. The EMS Rescue Shears shall be utilized **only** for the purpose of cutting through heavy-duty materials (e.g., Firefighter PPE) during an emergency to facilitate patient assessment and injury evaluation.
- B. After each use, the blades of the EMS Rescue Shears shall be cleaned using a soft cloth or brush to remove any debris or residue. If the blades are heavily soiled, a mild detergent or cleaning solution may be used. Ensure the blades are thoroughly dried after cleaning to prevent rust and maintain optimal performance.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Company Officers shall be held accountable for the daily inventory, inspection, and care of the EMS Rescue Shears.

- B. Chief Officers and Company Officers shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Order.
- C. Chief Officers and Company Officers shall conduct Company School to ensure that all members are aware of the provisions of this Order.
- D. It is the responsibility of all members to have a thorough knowledge of this Order.

By order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Ferman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Marc Ferman
Deputy Fire Commissioner
Bureau of Operations**

TO BE READ AT FOUR (4) ROLL CALLS AND POSTED

Distribution: A