

# Specialty: **Technical Rescue Task Force (TRTF)**

## Education and Training

Trained in Rope Rescue, Confined Space and Trench Rescue, a TRTF Team like the Winnipeg Fire and Protective Services (WFPS) deploys is comprised of Firefighter/Paramedics who have completed the NFPA accredited rope, confined space and trench rescue courses. The courses are most often provided by WFPS but can also be taken at several emergency services colleges across Canada.

## Roles and Responsibilities

Just as any other Firefighter/Paramedic, members of this TRTF complete regular duties such as: checking equipment; cleaning and maintaining equipment and station; regular training; responding to fire, rescue or medical calls for service.

In addition to this TRTF members will: train on technical rescue skills and evolutions; respond to emergencies that may require the unique skills and knowledge of the team; conduct site visits to various locations that may require TRTF response (such as cranes, construction sites, confined spaces etc.). Members may also be involved in teaching rope rescue, confined space rescue or trench rescue courses to other members of the WFPS.

## Impact

Firefighter/Paramedics with the Technical Rescue Task Force have the ability to access patients in hostile or dangerous environments such as: on the top of a crane; in an oxygen deprived confined space; or a collapsed trench. TRTF members can then assess the patient, provide treatment as necessary within a scope of practice, extricate, package and evacuate the patient to a waiting ambulance. Teams like this are expanding the environments in which paramedicine is practiced.

## Little Known Fact

The general public is often unaware that specialty rescue teams exist within Fire Protective Services and that they are also capable of providing medical interventions in hostile or dangerous environments when the situation calls for it. Sometimes the best course of action is to extricate a patient as fast as possible with minimal medical intervention. Other times, such as in trench rescue incidents, extrication may be delayed. In these cases, medical interventions such as oxygen therapy or IV access and fluid administration may increase the patient's survivability. This is a benefit provided by highly trained TRTF Firefighter/Paramedics.

