

Reference Materials

The jurisdictional entity in which the rescue personnel serves must have access to the most current editions of the following training manuals:

NFPA

NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1670: Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents

IFSTA

Fire Service Technical Search and Rescue

Other

Jurisdictionally developed codes and Protocols

Minimum Requirements

The Certification Program offers two (2) levels of Surface Water Rescue Certification:

Surface Water Rescue Level I

- Level I is for rescue situations with water moving **less than 1 knot**.
- Level I water rescue skills are applicable only to basic swimming and support of Surface Water Rescue Level II.

Applicants must:

1. meet all qualifications for, **and hold or apply concurrently for** the following SFFMA certificates:
 - a. Rescue Apprentice; AND
 - b. Rope Rescue Level I; AND
 - c. Rope Rescue Level II; ANDAND
2. have completed or hold one of the following:
 - a. SFFMA Surface Water Rescue Level I coursework
 - b. Surface Water Rescue Level I as defined by NFPA 1006;
 - c. TEEX Surface Water Rescue I.

Surface Water Rescue Level II

Applicant must:

1. meet all qualifications for, **and hold or apply concurrently for** the following SFFMA certificates:
 - a. Rescue Apprentice; AND
 - b. Rope Rescue Level I; AND
 - c. Rope Rescue Level II; AND
 - d. Surface Water Rescue Level IAND
2. have completed or hold one of the following:
 - a. SFFMA Surface Water Rescue Level II coursework
 - b. Surface Water Rescue Level II as defined by NFPA 1006;
 - c. TEEX Surface Water Rescue II

Curriculum for Surface Water Rescue Level I

SW-01.01 Develop a site survey for an existing water hazard, given historical data, specific personal protective equipment for conducting site inspections, flood insurance rate maps, tide tables, and meteorological projections, so that life safety hazards are anticipated, risk–benefit analysis is included, site inspections are completed, water conditions are projected, site-specific hazards are identified, routes of access and egress are identified, boat ramps (put-in and take-out points) are identified, method of entrapment is considered, and areas with high probability for victim location are determine

NFPA 1006 11.1.1

SW-01.02 Select water rescue personal protective equipment, given a water rescue assignment and assorted items of personal protective and life-support equipment, so that rescuer is protected from temperature extremes and environmental hazards, correct buoyancy is maintained, AHJ protocols are complied with, swimming ability is maximized, routine and emergency communications are established between components of the team, self-rescue needs have been evaluated and provided for, and pre-operation safety checks have been conducted.

NFPA 1006 11.1.2

SW-01.03 Define search parameters for a water rescue incident, given topographical maps of a search area, descriptions of all missing persons and incident history, hydrologic data including speed and direction of current or tides, so that areas with high probability of detection are differentiated from other areas, witnesses are interviewed, critical interview information is recorded, passive and active search tactics are implemented, personnel resources are considered and used, and search parameters are communicated.

NFPA 1006 11.1.3

S-OW1.04 Develop an action plan for a shore-based rescue of a single or multiple water-bound victim(s), given an operational plan and a water rescue tool kit, so that all information is factored, risk–benefit analysis is conducted, protocols are followed, hazards are identified and minimized, personnel and equipment resources will not be exceeded, assignments are defined, consideration is given to evaluating changing conditions, and the selected strategy and tactics fit the conditions.

NFPA 1006 11.1.4

SW-01.05 Conduct a witness interview, given witnesses and checklists, so that witnesses are secured, information is gathered, last seen point can be determined, last known activity can be determined, procedures to re-contact the witnesses are established, and reference objects can be utilized.

NFPA 1006 11.1.5

SW-01.06 Deploy a water rescue reach device to a water-bound victim, given required equipment and personal protective equipment so that the deployed equipment reaches the victim(s), the rescue equipment does not slip through the rescuer’s hands, the victim is moved to the rescuer’s shoreline, the victim is not pulled beneath the surface by rescuer efforts, the rescuer is not pulled into the water by the victim, and neither the rescuer nor the victim is tied to or entangled in the device.

NFPA 1006 11.1.6

- SW-01.07 Deploy a water rescue rope to a water-bound victim, given a water rescue rope in a throw bag, a coiled water rescue rope 50 ft to 75 ft (15.24m to 22.86 m) in length, and personal protective equipment, so that the deployed rope lands within reach of the victim, the rescue rope does not slip through the rescuer's hands, the victim is moved to the rescuer's shoreline, the victim is not pulled beneath the surface by rescuer efforts, the rescuer is not pulled into the water by the victim, and neither the rescuer nor the victim is tied to or entangled in the throw line.
NFPA 1006 11.1.7
- SW-01.08 Use watercraft for rescue operations, given watercraft, policies, and procedures used by the AHJ, so that watercraft pre-deployment checks are completed, watercraft launch or recovery is achieved as stipulated by AHJ operational protocols, divers are deployed and recovered, both on-board and dive rescue operations conform with watercraft operational protocols and capabilities, communications are clear and concise, and the candidate is familiar with watercraft nomenclature, operational protocols, design limitations, and launch/recovery site issues.
NFPA 1006 11.1.8
- SW-01.09 Define procedures to provide support for helicopter water rescue operations within the area of responsibility for the AHJ, given a helicopter service, operational protocols, helicopter capabilities and limitations, water rescue procedures, and risk factors influencing helicopter operations, so that air-to-ground communications are established and maintained, applications are within the capabilities and skill levels of the helicopter service, the applications facilitate victim extraction from water hazards that are representative of the bodies of water existing or anticipated within the geographic confines of the AHJ, air crew and ground personnel safety are not compromised, landing zones are designated and secured, and fire suppression resources are available at the landing zone.
NFPA 1006 11.1.9
- SW-01.10 Negotiate a designated water course in a watercraft, given a watercraft that is available to the team, a course that is representative of the bodies of water existing or anticipated within the geographic confines of the AHJ, a range of assignments, and water rescue personal protective equipment, so that the specified objectives are attained, all performance parameters are achieved, movement is controlled, hazards are continually assessed, launch does not proceed if the watercraft is inadequate or incapable of operating in the existing condition, distress signals are communicated, and rapid intervention for the watercraft crew has been staged for deployment.
NFPA 1006 11.1.10
- SW-01.11 Use techniques appropriate for the water environment to extricate an incapacitated water-bound victim from the water, as a member of a team, given a water hazard that is representative of the bodies of water existing or anticipated within the geographic confines of the AHJ, watercraft that is available to the team (if applicable), nets, webbing, blankets, tarpaulins or ropes, a means of securement, and water rescue personal protective equipment, so that the watercraft is not broached; control of the watercraft is maintained; risks to the victim and rescuers are minimized; and the victim is removed from the hazard expediently and efficiently.
NFPA 1006 11.1.11
- SW-01.12 Demonstrate fundamental watermanship skills, given safety equipment, props, and a confined water body, so that basic skills are demonstrated in a controlled environment, performance parameters are achieved, and problems can be identified prior to work in a high-stress environment.
NFPA 1006 11.1.12
- SW-01.13 Escape from a simulated life-threatening situation, given water rescue personal protective equipment, swim aids as required, and flotation aids, so that the rescuer reaches safety at a predetermined area.

NFPA 1006 11.1.13

SW-01.14 Identify procedures for operation of rope systems particular to the water rescue needs of the AHJ, given rescue personnel, an established rope system, a load to be moved, and personal protective equipment, so that the movement is controlled, the load is held in place when needed, and operating methods do not stress the system.

NFPA 1006 11.1.14

SW-01.15 Support Level II operations, given a designated mission, safety equipment, props, and water body, so that skills are demonstrated in a controlled environment, performance parameters are achieved, hazards are continually assessed, correct buoyancy control is maintained, and emergency procedures are demonstrated.

NFPA 1006 11.1.15

Curriculum for Surface Water Rescue Level II

SW-02.01 Swim a designated water course, given a course that is representative of the bodies of water existing or anticipated within the geographic confines of the AHJ, water rescue personal protective equipment, and swim aids as required, so that the specified objective is reached, all performance parameters are achieved, movement is controlled, hazards are continually assessed, distress signals are communicated, and rapid intervention for the rescuer has been staged for deployment.

NFPA 1006 11.2.1

SW-02.02 Perform a swimming surface water rescue, given water rescue personal protective equipment, swim aids as required, flotation aids for victims, and reach/extension devices, so that victim contact is maintained, the rescuer maintains control of the victim, the rescuer and the victim reach safety at a predetermined area, and medical conditions and treatment options are considered.

NFPA 1006 11.2.2

SW-02.03 Demonstrate defensive tactics in the water rescue environment, given a water-bound victim in a stressed or panicked situation so that the rescuer can maintain separation from the victim to create or maintain personal safety, and can perform self-defense techniques to prevent rescuer submersion if direct contact is made between a panicked victim and the rescuer.

NFPA 1006 11.2.3

SW-02.04 Supervise, coordinate, and lead rescue teams during operations, given incident checklists, maps, topographic surveys, and charts, so that teams are managed, personnel are supervised, hazards are assessed and identified, safety and health of team is ensured, qualifications/abilities of rescuers are verified, pre-entry briefing is conducted, and debriefing is performed

NFPA 1006 11.2.4