

Utah Fire Service Certification System

TECHNICAL RESCUE SURFACE WATER RESCUE



CERTIFICATION STANDARD

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Surface Water Rescue Technical Committee

The Certification Council would like to recognize and extend a voice of appreciation to the following fire service professionals for their work on the Surface Water Rescue certification standard. These individuals devoted many hours to reviewing the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006 standard, certification test banks, and curriculum textbooks to develop the wording for the skills for each discipline within this standard.

Thank You.

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INTRODUCTION

The Utah Fire and Rescue Academy (UFRA) has evolved into a dynamic organization that provides fire and emergency service–related training, professional accredited certification, and resource assistance. The Utah Fire Service Certification System (UFSCS) has been administered by UFRA since the system’s inception in the early 1980s. The governing body for the firefighter certification system in the state of Utah is the Utah Fire Service Certification Council (UFSCC). The members of the council represent various areas of the state as well as a variety of department types.

The entire system is based on international professional job performance standards from NFPA and NWCG. Fire service training must be utilized to its maximum potential. Any overlap, fragmentation, and lack of basic structure must be eliminated. Standardization is the natural complement and necessity. Through these national standards and certification, firefighters and fire departments have a tool to measure specific levels of skills, abilities, and knowledge. Testing takes place all over the state of Utah and is usually scheduled by fire department training officers for members of one or more local agencies to test at their own facilities using their own equipment.

The Utah Fire Service Certification System creates uniformity through certification. Certification allows a fire service professional to be a part of the National Registry (Pro Board and IFSAC), which verifies that a person has been trained at a national standard. Firefighters, hazardous materials responders, and rescue personnel can earn various certifications. Volunteer, part-time, and career firefighters must all meet the same standard to certify. Most fire departments in Utah have certified personnel even though there is no law requiring it.

“Certification from an accredited entity is a statement of success, an indisputable mark of performance belonging to individual fire service professionals. Each successful candidate for certification from an accredited entity knows that he or she has been measured against peers and meets rigorous national standards. Certification affords the individual a uniformity and portability of qualifications. In addition, the creditability of an organization is enhanced by having members certified to national consensus standards.”

—theproboard.org

IFSAC “provides accreditation to entities that certify the competency of and issue certificates to individuals who pass examinations based on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) fire service professional qualifications and other standards approved by the Assembly.”

—ifsac.org

The following certification requirements are based on the objectives listed in Chapter 17.1, “Surface Water Rescue,” in NFPA 1006, *Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications* (National Fire Protection Association, 2021), as verified and adopted by the Utah Fire Service Certification Council (UFSCC).

TECHNICAL RESCUE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Entrance Requirements

Certification at the Technical Rescue – Surface Water Rescue; Awareness, Operations, or Technician levels is a unique process. Because of the method and manner in which NFPA has established to become certified, candidates must complete the prerequisites and/or requirements for any of the specialty areas as set forth in Chapter 17 of NFPA 1006 (2021). In order to certify at the Technical Rescue level, candidates must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Complete entrance requirements.
2. Set up and maintain department records.
3. Train on the required written and practical objectives in the specialty areas outlined in Chapter 17, “Surface Water Rescue.”
4. Pass an in-house practical skills examination for each specialty area.
5. Meet any other training requirements/prerequisites as defined by the Certification Council.
6. Pass both written and practical skills examinations administered by the Certification Council.
7. Request Technical Rescue Certification for each specialty area completed.
8. Request recertification at end of each 3-year certification period.

Physical Fitness Requirements

The UFSCC acknowledges the importance of and need for physical fitness requirements as listed in NFPA 1006. Many agencies and departments have existing policies, regulations, etc. already in place regarding these requirements. The handling of physical fitness requirements is a **LOCAL MATTER**, outside the authority and jurisdiction of the UFSCC. The Council will not check, test, evaluate, or determine how individual agencies meet these requirements. Some departments have found it necessary to waive any type of physical fitness requirements due to their own special needs. As a local decision, this is permitted. However, due to the amount of physical, mental, and emotional stress inherent in this profession, **the Utah Fire Service Certification Council strongly recommends careful evaluation before altering or doing away with any existing physical fitness requirements.**

“All technical rescue activities should be carried out in the safest possible manner, including the consideration that all risks taken are to benefit the operation. Technical rescue skills require a high degree of physical activity, coordination, operational planning, and a strong knowledge of all applicable protocols” (NFPA 1006, 1.3.9).

Here are the entrance requirements outlined in NFPA 1006 (1.3.9, A.1.3.9):

1. Meet the minimum educational requirements established by the authority having jurisdiction.
2. The Utah Fire Service Certification Council Policy 11.3 requires that a candidate must be at least 18 years of age to test and be certified.
3. Meet the medical requirements of NFPA 1582, *Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments*, 2022 edition, as determined by the medical authority of the AHJ.
4. Technical rescue operations involve activities that pose great physical and mental challenges requiring the rescuer to perform challenging physical activities in a high-stress environment. Physical fitness requirements for entry-level personnel should be developed and validated by the authority having jurisdiction. Physical fitness requirements should be in compliance with applicable Equal Employment Opportunity regulations and other legal requirements.
5. Prior to beginning training as technical rescue personnel, a minimum medical training requirement should be met.

6. People having the potential for encountering hazardous materials on an incident scene should be trained to recognize the hazard and to implement exposure and control methods.

Department Training Officers

For a department to enroll in the certification process, it is necessary for the department to assign training officers. Departments who **do not** have certified personnel to act as training officers for certification training should contact the Utah Fire & Rescue Academy at (801) 863-7709 for assistance in setting up and monitoring certification training.

Department training instructors shall be certified at the level they are teaching. In addition, the Certification Council strongly recommends that training officers and instructors be state certified at the Instructor I level.

Department training officers or instructors will be responsible for certification training. Their primary responsibility will be to teach, evaluate, and in-house test department personnel on the skill and evolution requirements for each level of certification training.

The final entrance requirement is to complete the **Intent to Participate** form provided in Appendix C and return it to the Certification Council. Remember, participation in the certification process is **VOLUNTARY**. Once you have enrolled, you can withdraw if desired.

If a department is already participating in the Utah Fire Service Certification System, it will not be necessary to file another Intent to Participate form.

DEPARTMENT TRAINING

The position of a Surface Water Rescuer is one that requires a high level of skill and knowledge. The training that is given to and received by the candidate should be of the highest quality and degree. All training received must meet the requirements of NFPA 1006 (2021), including the sections regarding technical specialty areas in Chapter 17, and the skills as approved by the UFSCC contained within this Utah certification standard. All training received must be documented and recorded in the Training Record. All testing for Surface Water Rescue will be conducted following the Policies and Procedures of the UFSCC.

Training for Technical Rescue can be obtained by completing one of the following training courses or methods in order to qualify to take the state certification examination.

1. A Surface Water Rescue course which meets the requirements of NFPA 1006 (2021), Chapter 17. A Training Record, as provided in this standard, must be completed for each person.
2. Department Based Training. Departments can create their own Surface Water Rescue course which meets the requirements as outlined in the “Surface Water Rescue” section of Chapter 17 in NFPA 1006 (2021). A Training Record, as provided in this standard, must be completed for each person involved in the department-based training.

To prepare the candidate to successfully pass the state certification examination, the course material should be based on NFPA 1006 (2021) and the *Water Rescue* textbook published by Jones and Bartlett.

Written Objectives

Written objectives for Surface Water Rescue are covered in:

- Chapter 17, “Surface Water Rescue,” in NFPA 1006 (2021)
- Steve Treinish, *Water Rescue*, 3rd edition (Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2022)

This textbook is available from various fire service bookstores or on the internet. A list of current resources is available online at uvu.edu/ufra.

There are numerous methods departments have used to help prepare their personnel for the written examination. Considering the high level of skill and knowledge that is required of a Surface Water Rescuer, the Council recommends that the candidate participate in a comprehensive class and receive instruction on both skills and written requirements.

Skill Objectives

Each candidate **must** be trained and evaluated in the performance of **all** skills as found in this Utah certification standard. Each of the skill objectives shall be completed swiftly, safely, and with competence as defined below:

- **Swiftly.** Each skill objective must be completed within the allotted time.
- **Safely.** Each skill objective must be completed safely. Conduct that could injure an individual or damage equipment is unacceptable. Equipment should be checked prior to skill testing or training to see that it is safe and functional.
- **With Competence.** Each skill objective must be performed in accordance with this Utah certification standard. This includes performing the proper steps in sequence. Competence will be measured in accordance with the UFSCS skill objectives.

Department Training Records

Each candidate shall have a current, accurate, and complete Training Record on file with the department which indicates that they have been trained on all skill objectives. **The Training Record must be completed in its entirety in order to test.** Training Records may be completed on a computer or by hand. Departments may set up their own Training Records, use the one provided in this standard, or use the fillable Training Record found online on UFRA’s website. If a department chooses to set up their own Training Record it must meet the following requirements:

1. Indicate the certification level and its corresponding NFPA standard number and edition.
2. Include a signature line for the candidate, which attests that all skills have been trained on and a complete in-house comprehensive exam was administered and passed.
3. Include a signature line for the Chief/Training Officer, which attests that the candidate has been trained on all skills and a complete in-house comprehensive exam was administered and passed.
4. Include a line to record the date the Training Record was completed.
5. List all the skills from this Utah certification standard for this level. Include columns indicating the date of trainings, training instructors, the date of exams, exam instructors, and whether the candidate passed each exam (see the Training Record on page 14 in this standard).

Department In-House Skills Examination

At the completion of the department's skills training, the department is required to hold an in-house skills examination for the level being trained. This is a comprehensive in-house skills examination conducted by the department training officers. This test is to ensure that skill mastery has been maintained from the beginning to the end of the training process, and to prepare candidates for the state examination. Training officers may utilize other personnel to assist in administering the exam; however, they must be certified at the level they are in-house testing.

Proctor instructions for the examination are in Appendix B. In-house testers shall follow the proctor instruction sheet to provide for uniformity and fairness during the exam. It is recommended that candidates be given two attempts at any skill. **If they fail on the second try, then they have failed the evaluation and are required to go through additional training by the department trainer.** No training, teaching, or coaching is allowed during the test. After the evaluation, using the test to teach and train is recommended.

If skill weaknesses are evident, the department should conduct additional training and hold a new department in-house skills examination to ensure their personnel have fully mastered all required skills. Only those individuals who successfully pass the department skill test will be allowed to participate in the Certification Council's skill spot check examination. Department records must show that all candidates have successfully passed the in-house exam.

CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

After completion of the training process, the Chief/Administrator can request testing for the candidate using the Examination Request form in Appendix C. The candidate will then have three attempts to pass the written examination. A separate request must be sent to the Certification Office for each attempt. Request forms must reach the Certification Office no later than 30 days prior to the examination date. The entire examination process must be completed within one year of the first written exam date.

Written Examinations

The written examination is a randomly generated test covering the written objectives of the Technical Rescue standard of NFPA 1006 (2021).

Chapter 17 Certification Level	# of Questions
Surface Water - Awareness	25
Surface Water - Operations	30
Surface Water - Technician	30

A minimum score of 70% is required to pass the certification exam. Firefighters failing the first attempt of the written exam will be permitted to retest no sooner than 30 days from the date of the last exam. Three attempts are allowed to pass the exam. If a candidate fails the written examination three times, they failed the certification process and must wait one year from the date of the last failed exam before reentering testing. Exam results are forwarded to the Chief/Administrator within 30 days following the receipt of the completed exam.

Skills Spot Check Examinations

This is a two-step examination. The first step is a department records check and the second is the skills spot check examination. A Certification Tester appointed by the Utah Fire Service Certification Council conducts the examination.

Training Records are checked. If records are inadequate, corrective action must be taken before proceeding to the next step. The records must meet minimum requirements and are checked for the following:

1. Candidate has been trained in each skill and evolution for the level being evaluated.
2. A department training officer has signed off each skill and evolution.
3. Each candidate has passed a department in-house skills and evolution examination.

The skills spot check examination is graded on a 100% pass/fail basis. The test is graded in the following three areas:

- **Swiftly.** Each skill objective must be completed within the allotted time.
- **Safely.** Each skill objective must be completed safely. Conduct that could injure an individual or damage equipment is unacceptable. Equipment should be checked prior to skill testing or training to see that it is safe and functional.
- **With Competence.** Each skill objective must be performed in accordance with this Utah certification standard. This includes performing the proper steps in sequence. Competence will be measured in accordance with the UFSCS skill objectives.

Evolution Examinations: Candidates are spot checked on one Evolution Examination for each level (Awareness, Operations, Technician) or three skills for that level (chosen randomly). This is a 100% pass/fail test. If a candidate fails any portion of the skill, then they have failed the evolution/skill and must retest the entire evolution/skill. Candidates who fail the second attempt must wait **30 days** before the third and final attempt. **No training, teaching, or coaching is allowed during this state test.**

- Surface Water Rescue Awareness: one Evolution Examination, or three skills for that level
- Surface Water Rescue Operations: one **Team** Evolution Examination, or three skills for that level
- Surface Water Rescue Technician: one **Team** Evolution Examination, or three skills for that level

The skills will be from NFPA 1006 (2021), Chapter 17. Candidates are given two attempts to perform each skill/evolution. If they fail on the **second attempt**, the applicants must wait 30 days before the third and final attempt. Participants taking **third attempts** will test on the skill/evolution they missed and one additional skill.

Candidates who have failed the third attempt of the written examination or the skills examination have failed the certification process and must wait **one year** from the date of the failed third attempt to reenter state testing. The candidate will begin testing with a new **first attempt** of the written examination, following a request for examination. If a candidate wishes to enter a new course, the candidate may petition the Certification Office to reenter the certification examination process no sooner than 120 days after their **third attempt** failure. In the petition, candidates must explain the reason(s) behind their request to reenter the process.

TECHNICAL RESCUE CERTIFICATION

When all requirements for certification have been met, applicants are eligible to be certified. The chief/administrator may apply to the Utah Fire Service Certification Council for certification for those candidates who have successfully completed the certification training/testing process. Requests for state certification must be submitted to the Certification Office using the Certification/Recertification Request form provided in Appendix C. The names are

then checked against the official state records to ensure that each individual listed has met all requirements and prerequisites.

Prerequisites for Technical Rescue Certification

To qualify to train on the NFPA 1006 section listed in the left column, candidates must have completed the prerequisite training indicated in the right column.

Training	Prerequisites
Surface Water Rescue - Awareness (17.1)	
Surface Water Rescue - Operations (17.2)	17.1
Surface Water Rescue - Technician (17.3)	17.1, 17.2

Recertification

Certifications are valid for a three-year period. Each certified Technical Rescuer may renew certification by having the Chief/Administrator of the participating agency submit a Certification/Recertification Request (provided in Appendix C of this standard).

Certified candidates should participate in at least 36 hours of structured class and skill training per year to maintain competency and stay current on their skills. This 36 hours is for all certified levels combined, not 36 hours for each individual level. A total of 108 hours of training is required for the previous three-year certification period.

Recertification for Technician Levels Only

Because of the high level of skills required of a Surface Water Rescue Technician, the Certification Council requires that candidates complete an in-house comprehensive examination evolution—that allows them to demonstrate the technician-level skills contained in this standard—as part of their recertification process. An original copy of a candidate's Technician Training Record for the previous three-year period must accompany each technician recertification request, verifying the candidate is qualified in all technician level skills.

For more information on Utah firefighter certification, contact the:

Utah Fire Service Certification Council
Utah Fire & Rescue Academy
3131 Mike Jense Parkway
Provo, UT 84601
1-801-863-7709
www.uvu.edu/ufra

TECHNICAL RESCUE CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- ☐ Each candidate has met the requirements listed in NFPA 1006, 2021 edition.
- ☐ Each candidate has trained on the Technical Rescue level written objectives.

DEPARTMENT TRAINING RECORDS:

- ☐ Each candidate has a training record on file with the department that shows:
 1. A learning experience in each skill objective
 2. Dates of training
 3. Initials of instructors
- ☐ Each candidate has trained on the Technical Rescue level written objectives.

DEPARTMENT IN-HOUSE SKILLS EXAMINATION:

- ☐ Each candidate has successfully completed an in-house skills and evolution examination.
- ☐ Exam results are documented in department training records.

CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS:

- ☐ Each candidate has passed the UFSCC written examination.
- ☐ Each candidate has passed the UFSCC skill.
- ☐ A Spot Check examination was administered by an approved Certification Tester(s).

TECHNICAL RESCUE CERTIFICATION:

- ☐ The Chief/Administrator has requested certification for candidates using the Certification/Recertification Request.

SECTION I
SURFACE WATER RESCUE - AWARENESS

SURFACE WATER RESCUE – AWARENESS SKILL OBJECTIVES

To complete the skills contained in this chapter, the AHJ must be able to provide a safe testing environment for the candidates and accept all liability for candidate safety. The AHJ must have the capacity to provide a safe training/testing location for the incident.

1. Conduct a scene size-up/site survey for a surface water rescue incident. (Including search parameters, risk benefit analysis, etc.)

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.1.1-17.1.4

CONDITION: Given the graphic of the scene or training location (AHJ approved training location) perform an effective scene size-up for a surface water rescue incident.

COMPETENCE:

- Identify location of the incident
- Describe the nature of the incident (what happened; i.e., tube in water, victims, witnesses, parties involved, etc.)
- Identify victim(s) point last seen
- Determine search parameters, identify search measures (passive/active)
- Identify any existing or potential hazards; water conditions, weather, etc.
- Request additional resources and type of resources needed (PPE, watercraft, etc.)
- Establish Command

TIME: 5 minutes

2. Conduct a witness interview.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.1.1

CONDITION: Given witnesses and checklists as provided by the AHJ.

COMPETENCE:

- Identify and determine potential witnesses
- Identify and/or describe the safe area to perform interview
- Attempt to determine the following information at a minimum:
 - Victim Point Last Seen (PLS)
 - Number of victims
 - Victim information (name/age/clothing/activity/PFD/medication)
 - Secure witness(es) (keep on scene and/or record contact information)
 - Document valuable witness information
- Interpret reference and/or preplan material and/or witness information (determine value and/or priority of information received)
- Effectively communicate valuable witness information to command
- Evaluate support and resource requirements based on witness information as required

TIME: 20 minutes

3. Identify type of PPE and equipment requirements for a surface water rescue incident.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.1.2

CONDITION: Given a surface water rescue incident describe required types of PPE and equipment.

COMPETENCE:

- Identify and describe the type(s) of PPE and equipment used and/or potentially used in a surface water rescue:
 - Dry suit/Wet suit
 - PFD type III/V
 - Whistle, knife, helmet
 - Swim fins
 - Throw bag, ring buoy, rescue can, rescue tube
 - Boat, jet ski, other, etc.
 - Rope rescue equipment

TIME: 2 minutes

4. Recognize surface water incident hazards, isolation procedures and resource capabilities and limitations.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.1.2

CONDITION: Given the graphic of the scene or training location (AHJ approved training location) identify or describe *at least five* (5) surface water hazards, water conditions, features, etc. to determine isolation procedures, resource capabilities, and limitations.

COMPETENCE:

- Identify or describe *at least five* (5) of the following water hazards:
 - Location directions
 - Map of area & features
 - General & site-specific life safety hazards
 - (Land and water)
 - Access and egress route for vehicles & equipment
 - Alternate access and egress route for vehicles & equipment
 - Identify boat launch and de-launch locations
 - Potential victim hazard and/or entrapment areas
 - Number of people/bystanders
 - Weather conditions
 - Water conditions
 - Water temperature
 - Water currents
 - Shore line conditions
 - Manmade features: dams, docks, etc.

TIME: 5 minutes

5. Support operations or technician level responders for a given surface water rescue incident.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.1.4

CONDITION: Identify and/or describe at *least five* (5) awareness level support operations, assignments, tasks, roles, etc. to support a surface water operations and technician level rescue incident.

COMPETENCE:

- Identify or describe at *least five* (5) of the following tasks/roles:
 - Rehab
 - Witness interview
 - Isolation and containment
 - Information collection and dissemination
 - Lookout/spotter
 - Equipment/tool cache assembly
 - Assist with communications
 - Decontamination and equipment inspection
 - Documentation
 - Other (support operations, assignments, tasks, roles, etc.)

TIME: 5 minutes

Surface Water Rescue - Awareness Evolution

To create a more realistic testing environment, the individual skills have been assembled into this examination evolution. Candidates must train and complete in-house skills and evolution examinations. The evolution will be graded on a 100% pass/fail basis.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17

SKILL EXAM
EVOLUTION:

Establish command, perform an appropriate scene size-up and create a corresponding Incident Action Plan for a surface water scenario.

CONDITION:

Given a scenario of a surface water incident, notepad and pencil, and graphics or AHJ approved training location of the incident, detail the issues that should be addressed in the Incident Action Plan (using any AHJ, SOP's or tactical worksheets).

SCENARIO:

Your team has been called to a surface water rescue for an unknown number of victims in the water.

TIME:

10 minutes

COMPETENCE:

- Establish command.
- Conduct a scene size-up and identify additional resources needed and limitations of the current team.
- Secure and interview witnesses:
 - Identify point last seen
 - Age/gender - description
 - Clothing
 - Swimmer/non-swimmer
 - Floatation device
- Identify location and number of victims
- Identify and mitigate immediate hazards and establish scene control
- Remove non-essential personnel and restrict entry
- Identify type of PPE required
- Conduct a risk benefit analysis and determine rescue or recovery operation.
- Notify the appropriate response for the given situation
- Function within an incident management system, implement an incident action plan, and follow ICS and AHJ operational protocols

UTAH FIRE SERVICE CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

SURFACE WATER RESCUE - AWARENESS

NFPA 1006, 2021 edition
17.1.1-17.1.4

SURFACE WATER RESCUE - AWARENESS TRAINING RECORD / IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE FORM

Candidate Name:			Department:			
Candidate Signature:			Date of Completion:			
Chief/Training Officer:			Chief/Training Officer Signature:			
This form may be completed on a computer but must be printed out for the Certification Tester to verify on test day. Date of completion and signatures of Chief/Training Officer and Candidate must be original signatures. Signatures attest that all skills have been trained on and a complete in-house Comprehensive Exam was administered and passed. Falsification of signatures or any component of this document may result in the revocation, suspension, or denial of certification.						
SECTION	TRAINING RECORD		IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS			SKILL OBJECTIVES & EVOLUTION
	DATE	INSTRUCTOR	DATE	INSTRUCTOR	PASS	
17.1.1-17.1.4						1. Conduct a scene size-up/site survey for a surface water rescue incident. (Including search parameters, risk benefit analysis, etc.)
17.1.1						2. Conduct a witness interview.
17.1.2						3. Identify type of PPE and equipment requirements for a surface water rescue incident.
17.1.2						4. Recognize surface water incident hazards, isolation procedures and resource capabilities and limitations.
17.1.4						5. Support operations or technician level responders for a given surface water rescue incident.
Certification Examination Evolution						Establish command, perform an appropriate scene size-up and create a corresponding Incident Action Plan for a surface water Scenario.

SECTION II
SURFACE WATER RESCUE - OPERATIONS

SURFACE WATER RESCUE – OPERATIONS SKILL OBJECTIVES

To complete the skills contained in this chapter, “Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements” must be followed when noted in the skills (see below):

**** Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements:**

The following minimum is required to perform surface water rescue testing. Three (3) or more personnel with the roles of: *spotter(s)*, *backup/rescue swimmer(s)*, and *safety officer*. *AHJ approved*.

The AHJ must be able to provide a safe testing environment for all candidates and accept all liability for candidate safety. The AHJ must have the capacity to provide a safe testing location for the incident.

1. Develop a written/typed site survey/pre-plan for a surface water hazard.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.1-17.2.3

CONDITION: Given an AHJ surface water rescue training location, and/or photo, AHJ preplan material, conduct a site survey/pre-plan of the location.

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Interpret reference material
- Create a written or electronic pre-plan document which identifies at least eight of the following:
 - Location directions (map of area & features)
 - General & site specific life safety hazards (land and water)
 - Risk/benefit analysis
 - Access and egress route for vehicles & equipment
 - Alternate access and egress route for vehicles & equipment
 - Identify boat launch and de-launch locations
 - Potential victim hazard and/or entrapment areas
 - Response resource requirements
 - Any outside resource requirement listed, include contact information
 - Any or all of the following: pictures, aerial views, topographic maps
 - Known weather patterns
 - Water currents, temperature, size
 - Implement effective communications with team members (provide known incident information, radio channels, signals, etc.)

TIME: 60 minutes

2. Identify type of PPE and equipment requirements for a surface water rescue incident.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.1

CONDITION: Given a surface water rescue incident describe required types of PPE and equipment.

COMPETENCE:

- Identify and describe the type(s) of PPE and equipment used and/or potentially used in a Surface Water Rescue:
 - Dry suit/Wet suit
 - PFD type III/V
 - Whistle, knife, helmet
 - Swim fins
 - Throw bag, ring buoy, rescue can, rescue tube
 - Boat, jet ski, other, etc.
 - Rope rescue equipment

TIME: 2 minutes

3. Identify types of water rescue communications.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.2

CONDITION: Given a surface water rescue incident, identify/describe types of communications used.

COMPETENCE:

- Identify and describe the type(s) of communication in a Surface Water Rescue:
 - Hand signals
 - Whistle blasts
 - Radio communications
 - Waterproof radios
- Identify limitations of communication, i.e., distance, lighting, time of day, etc.

TIME: 5 minutes

4. Don and doff appropriate level PPE for surface water rescue operations.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.2

CONDITION: Given a team of two members, don appropriate level PPE for surface water rescue operations.

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Don appropriate task specific PPE:
 - Wetsuit/dry suit
 - Helmet
 - Gloves
 - Footwear
 - PFD type III/V
 - Light/chem stick
 - Whistle
 - Knife
 - Throw bag
 - Other AHJ approved PPE
- Perform a safety check on self and partner

- Doff appropriate task specific PPE:
 - Wetsuit/dry suit
 - Helmet
 - Gloves
 - Footwear
 - PFD type III/V
 - Light/chem stick
 - Whistle
 - Knife
 - Throw bag
 - Other AHJ approved PPE

TIME: 10 minutes

5. Demonstrate the ability to deploy a throw bag and/or ring buoy.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.5, 17.2.6

CONDITION: Given a water rescue throw device (throw bag, ring buoy, can, tube, etc.)
Wearing appropriate level of PPE, perform a throw rescue.

SCENARIO: Perform a throw rescue with a single victim (wearing PPE) in the water.
COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Evaluate water conditions (current, hazards, wind, etc.)
- Identify hazards directly related to specific rescue
- Communicate with victim and/or team effectively
- Deploy water rescue rope with efficiency (does not lose grip or balance)
- Retrieve victim with efficiency (victim is not pulled below surface, victim reaches rescuers shoreline, etc.)
- Ensure neither rescuer nor victim is tied or entangled in/to device
- Ensure shore-based victim removal techniques facilitate operational efficiency

TIME: 10 minutes

6. Demonstrate the use of a water reach device. Deploy a water rescue reach device to a water bound victim.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.5

CONDITION: Given required equipment and wearing appropriate PPE, deploy a water reach device.
Follow **** Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements**

SCENARIO: Perform a reach rescue with a single victim (wearing PPE) in the water.

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Evaluate water conditions (current, hazards, wind, etc.)

- Identify hazards directly related to specific rescue
- Communicate with victim and/or team effectively
- Operate reach device with efficiency (does not lose grip or balance)
- Retrieve victim with efficiency (victim is not pulled below surface, victim reaches rescuers shoreline, etc.)
- Ensure neither rescuer nor victim is tied or entangled in/to device
- Ensure shore-based victim removal techniques facilitate operational efficiency

TIME: 10 minutes

7. Develop an incident action plan for a shore-based rescue.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.4

CONDITION: Given a scenario of a surface water incident, at an AHJ training location or a photo of a water rescue incident. Develop/verbalize an incident action plan for a shore-based rescue (using any AHJ SOP's or tactical worksheets).

SCENARIO: Your team has been called to a surface water rescue for an unknown number of victims in the water.

COMPETENCE:

- Identify point last seen (PLS) and/or location and number of victims
- Identify and mitigate immediate hazards and establish scene control
- Remove non-essential personnel and restrict entry
- Identify type of PPE required
- Conduct a risk benefit analysis and determine passive or active rescue or recovery operation
- Notify the appropriate response for the given situation

TIME: 5 minutes

8. Define procedures to provide support for helicopter water rescue operations (within the area of responsibility for the AHJ).

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.8

CONDITION: Given a simulated helicopter service, operational protocols, helicopter capabilities and limitations, water rescue procedures, and risk factors influencing helicopter operations. Verbalize.

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Determine applicability of air operations (is service available in the AHJ, cost vs. benefit)
- Verbalize at least five of the following helicopter

- operations, standards and procedures:
- Request required support and resources
- Establish and control landing zone and area
- Identify and mitigate any existing and potential hazards at/near landing zone
- Assess fire protection needs of landing zone
- Implement communication with helicopter via dispatch (notify pilot of landing zone location, hazards, wind direction, etc.)
- Have EMS on standby - crash survival procedures
- Identify any rigging concerns/hazards
- Work with air crews to rescue a victim from the water, if applicable.

TIME: 15 minutes

9. Demonstrate fundamental survival, swimming, and self-rescue skills.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.9, 17.2.10

CONDITION: Given appropriate PPE and AHJ approved swimming location, safety equipment, props, water rescue swim aids as required, and flotation aids.

*AHJ watermanship test completed prior to skills test.

Follow ** *Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements*

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Evaluate water conditions and hazards
 - closest safe area such as boat, eddy, shoreline, etc.
 - boat motor, floating debris
 - current hazards such as rapids, etc.
- Demonstrate the ability to float and swim in different water conditions utilizing appropriate PPE and/or flotation devices
- Apply water survival skills as required (basic forward stroke, backstroke, side stroke, etc.)
- Verbalize communication methods of distress to team members (voice, hand, whistle)

TIME: 15 minutes

10. Develop and implement an action plan for the use of watercraft. Demonstrate the procedures for performing watercraft-based rescue.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.7

CONDITION: **Two options:**

A. **No watercraft available.** Given photos of a watercraft, verbalize an action plan for the use of watercraft. Identify the use and limitations of the watercraft, and how to implement for victim retrieval.

B. **With a watercraft available.** Demonstrate an action plan for the use of watercraft. Identify the use and limitations of the

watercraft, and how to implement for victim retrieval. Follow policies and procedures used by the AHJ.
Follow ** *Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements*

SCENARIO: As a crew member of a watercraft rescue team remove a victim of water from AHJ approved training location.

COMPETENCE:

- Identify and utilize proper PPE
- Identify limitations of watercraft
- Identify and communicate incident action plan to members of the team
- Identify water hazards
 - Motor
 - Surface hazards
 - Underwater hazards
 - Pollutants
 - Etc.
- Identify access and egress launch points
- As a crew member, verbalize/demonstrate proper control and stability of the watercraft
- Verbalize/demonstrate victim removal using appropriate techniques as needed (i.e., parbuckling, spinal precautions, airway, etc.)
- Demonstrate/verbalize appropriate techniques for removal and securing watercraft

TIME: A. 5 minutes B. 20 minutes

11. Demonstrate the use of basic rope systems. Operate water rescue rope systems particular to the water rescue needs of the AHJ.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.11

CONDITION: As a member of a 2-4 water rescue team. Demonstrate the use of basic rope systems in a water rescue environment. Using AHJ approved rope rescue equipment and PPE.
Follow ** *Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements*

SCENARIO: Given an embankment or simulated slope, remove a victim/load from the water to a safe area using basic rope systems.

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Adequately estimate anticipated load
- Ensure chosen equipment and system facilitates the efficiency of the operation
- Communicate with victim and/or team effectively
- Perform a system safety check (visual, physical, load)
- Manage movement of the load effectively
- Evaluate for potential problems

TIME: 20 minutes

12. Describe procedures for terminating a surface water incident.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.12, 17.2.13

CONDITION: Verbalize the procedures for termination of a surface water incident. Using AHJ approved policies and procedures.

COMPETENCE:

- Ensure all rescuers and victim(s) are out of the hazard area
- Account for and secure all PPE and equipment
- Identify need to rehab/decontaminate any PPE, equipment, and personnel
- Ensure all documentation is completed
- Identify any potential need for critical incident stress management
- Perform a post incident debriefing and analysis

TIME: 10 minutes

Surface Water - Operations Evolution

To create a more realistic testing environment, the individual skills have been assembled into this Examination Evolution. Candidates must train and complete in-house skills and evolution examinations. The evolution will be graded on a 100% pass/fail basis.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.2.1-17.2.6, 17.2.11-17.2.13

SKILL EXAM
EVOLUTION:

Working as a member of a minimum 8-12 member team, fulfilling assigned team roles, including but not limited to: Incident Commander, Safety Officer, Rescue Officer, lookouts/spotters, boat operator(s) and support personnel. Supplied with the appropriate equipment (PPE), following local protocols and AHJ procedures, demonstrate the ability to perform an operations surface water rescue.

**The evolution exam is a team evolution but is graded individually; the whole team is not penalized if one or more members do not fulfill their required tasks. Each team member must have the knowledge/skills of each role.*

CONDITION:

Given a scenario of a surface water incident at an AHJ approved training location. Wearing approved PPE and any AHJ approved water rescue equipment, i.e., watercraft, throw/reach devices, etc.

Follow ** *Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements*

SCENARIO:

Your team has been called to a surface water rescue for an unknown number of conscious victim(s) in the water. Perform an operations level water rescue.

COMPETENCE:

- Establish command.
- Conduct a scene size-up and identify additional resources needed and limitations of the current team.
- Secure and interview witnesses
- Identify point last seen (PLS), location and number of victims.
- Identify and mitigate immediate hazards and establish scene control.
- Identify type and wear appropriate PPE required.
- Determine rescue method and develop incident action plan.
 - Reach, throw, or watercraft
- Perform water rescue of a victim in a safe and appropriate manner.
- Terminate the incident utilizing policies and procedures.

TIME:

1 hour

UTAH FIRE SERVICE CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

SURFACE WATER RESCUE - OPERATIONS

NFPA 1006, 2021 edition

17.2

SURFACE WATER RESCUE - OPERATIONS TRAINING RECORD / IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE FORM

Candidate Name:					Department:	
Candidate Signature:					Date of Completion:	
Chief/Training Officer:					Chief/Training Officer Signature:	
This form may be completed on a computer but must be printed out for the Certification Tester to verify on test day. Date of completion and signatures of Chief/Training Officer and Candidate must be original signatures. Signatures attest that all skills have been trained on and a complete in-house Comprehensive Exam was administered and passed. Falsification of signatures or any component of this document may result in the revocation, suspension, or denial of certification.						
SECTION	TRAINING RECORD		IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS			SKILL
	DATE	INSTRUCTOR	DATE	INSTRUCTOR	PASS	
17.2.1-17.2.3						1. Develop a written/taped site survey/pre-plan for a surface water hazard.
17.2.1						2. Identify type of PPE and equipment requirements for a surface water rescue incident.
17.2.2						3. Identify types of water rescue communications.
17.2.2						4. Don appropriate level PPE for surface water.
17.2.5, 17.2.6						5. Demonstrate the ability to deploy a throw bag and/or ring buoy.
17.2.5						6. Demonstrate the use of a water reach device.
17.2.4						7. Develop an incident action plan for a shore-based rescue.
17.2.8						8. Define procedures to provide support for helicopter water rescue operations.
17.2.9, 17.2.10						9. Demonstrate fundamental survival, swimming, and self-rescue skills.
17.2.7						10. Develop and implement an action plan for the use of watercraft. Demonstrate procedures for performing watercraft-based rescue.
17.2.11						11. Demonstrate the use of basic rope systems for surface water rescue.
17.2.12, 17.2.13						12. Describe procedures for terminating a surface water incident.
Certification Examination Evolution						Working as a member of a minimum 8-12 member team, supplied with the appropriate equipment (PPE), following local protocols and AHJ procedures, demonstrate the ability to perform an operations surface water rescue.

SECTION III
SURFACE WATER RESCUE - TECHNICIAN

SURFACE WATER RESCUE – TECHNICIAN SKILL OBJECTIVES

To complete the skills contained in this chapter, “Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements” must be followed when noted in the skills (see below).

**** *Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements:***

The following minimum is required to perform surface water rescue testing. Three (3) or more personnel with the roles of: *spotter(s)*, *backup/rescue swimmer(s)*, and *safety officer*. *AHJ approved*.

The AHJ must be able to provide a safe testing environment for all candidates and accept all liability for candidate safety. The AHJ must have the capacity to provide a safe testing location for the incident.

1. Demonstrate the ability to perform watermanship skills by swimming a designated water course (designated by the AHJ).

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.3.1

CONDITION: Given safety equipment, props, and a confined water body (swimming pool or open static body of water - rescue team must be in place).
Follow ** *Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements*

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE.
- Demonstrate the ability to float and swim with and without flotation or swim aids.
- Apply water survival skills as required (basic forward stroke, backstroke, side stroke, etc.).

TIME: 20 minutes

2. Demonstrate the ability to perform a swimming surface water rescue.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.3.1, 17.3.2

CONDITION: Given water rescue personal protective equipment, swim aids as required, flotation aids for victims, and reach/extension devices.
Follow ** *Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements*

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE.
- Don task specific PPE in a correct and timely manner.
- Select and use appropriate flotation and/or swim aids as required.
- Evaluate water conditions to identify safe entry points and avoids hazards.
- Apply water survival skills as required (avoids hazards, navigates currents, takes most direct path, etc.).
- Communicate with victim and/or team effectively.
- Implement tactics to avoid contact with panicked/aggressive victim.

- Move victim to a safe area and communicate medical information and/or transfer victim to EMS.

TIME: 30 minutes

3. Demonstrate the ability to perform defensive tactics for a panicked or stressed victim.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.3.2-17.3.3

CONDITION: Given a water bound victim in a stressed or panicked situation.
Follow ** *Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements*

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Implement tactics to avoid contact with panicked/aggressive victim (approaches from rear, uses defensive swimming position, etc.)
- Implement tactics to release oneself from the grasp of a panicked/aggressive victim (blocks, releases, escapes)
- Demonstrate the ability to float and swim in different water conditions without floatation or swim aids
- Communicate with victim and/or team effectively

TIME: 20 minutes

4. A. Demonstrate the ability to perform an entry surface rescue, from a watercraft.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.3.4

CONDITION: 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. Given watercraft, policies, and procedures used by the AHJ.
Follow ** *Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements*

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Establish communications system with team members (hand signal, whistle, voice)
- Implement entry and exit procedures following approved methods from land/shore
- Identify hazards in relation to rescue operation.
- Use emergency and safety equipment as required
- Exit and enter the watercraft in a safe and appropriate manner – “Go” rescue from the watercraft

TIME: 45 minutes

4. B. Demonstrate the ability to perform an entry surface rescue, from the shore.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17

CONDITION: Given a body of water 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.

Follow ** *Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements*

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Establish communications system with team members (hand signal, whistle, voice)
- Implement entry and exit procedures following approved methods from the shore
- Identify hazards in relation to rescue operation
- Use emergency and safety equipment as required

TIME: 15 minutes

Surface Water Rescue - Technician Evolution

In order to create a more realistic testing environment, the individual skills have been assembled into this Examination Evolution. Candidates must train and complete in-house skills and evolution examinations. The evolution will be graded on a 100% pass/fail basis.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17

SKILL EXAM
EVOLUTION:

Working as a member of a minimum 8-12 member team, fulfill assigned team roles, including but not limited to: Incident Commander, Safety Officer, Rescue Officer, look outs/spotters, rescue swimmer(s), boat operator(s) and support personnel. Supplied with the appropriate equipment (PPE), following local protocols and AHJ procedures, demonstrate the ability to perform a technician level surface water rescue.

**The evolution exam is a team evolution but is graded individually; the whole team is not penalized if one or more members do not fulfill their required tasks. Each team member must have the knowledge/skills of each role.*

CONDITION:

Given a scenario of a surface water incident at an AHJ approved training location. Wearing approved PPE and any AHJ approved water rescue equipment, i.e., watercraft, throw/reach devices, etc.

Follow ** *Surface Water Rescue Safety Requirements*

SCENARIO:

Your team has been called to a surface water rescue for an unknown number of unconscious victim(s) in the water. Perform a technician level surface water rescue.

TIME:

1 hour

COMPETENCE:

- Establish command.
- Conduct a scene size-up and identify additional resources needed and limitations of the current team.
- Secure and interview witnesses
- Identify point last seen (PLS), location and number of victims.
- Identify and mitigate immediate hazards and establish scene control.
- Identify type and wear appropriate PPE required.
- Determine rescue method and develop incident action plan.
 - Reach, throw, go or watercraft
- Perform a swimming surface water rescue of a victim in a safe and appropriate manner.
- Terminate the incident utilizing policies and procedures.

UTAH FIRE SERVICE CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

SURFACE WATER RESCUE - TECHNICIAN

NFPA 1006, 2021 edition
17.3

SURFACE WATER RESCUE - TECHNICIAN TRAINING RECORD / IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE FORM

Candidate Name:				Department:		
Candidate Signature:				Date of Completion:		
Chief/Training Officer:				Chief/Training Officer Signature:		
This form may be completed on a computer but must be printed out for the Certification Tester to verify on test day. Date of completion and signatures of Chief/Training Officer and Candidate must be original signatures. Signatures attest that all skills have been trained on and a complete in-house Comprehensive Exam was administered and passed. Falsification of signatures or any component of this document may result in the revocation, suspension, or denial of certification.						
SECTION	TRAINING RECORD		IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS			SKILL OBJECTIVES & EVOLUTION
	DATE	INSTRUCTOR	DATE	INSTRUCTOR	PASS	
17.3.1						1. Demonstrate the ability to perform watermanship skills by swimming a designated water course (designated by the AHJ).
17.3.1, 17.3.2						2. Demonstrate the ability to perform a swimming surface water rescue.
17.3.2, 17.3.3						3. Demonstrate the ability to perform defensive tactics for a panicked or stressed victim.
17.3.4						4. Demonstrate the ability to perform an entry surface rescue:
17.3.4						a. From a watercraft.
						b. From the shore.
Certification Examination Evolution						Working as a member of a minimum 8–12 member team, supplied with the appropriate equipment (PPE), following local protocols and AHJ procedures, demonstrate the ability to direct and perform an operation at a technician surface water rescue incident.

APPENDIX A

Surface Water Photo Example:



Watercraft Examples:

A.



B.



APPENDIX B
IN-HOUSE PROCTOR INSTRUCTIONS

Proctor Instructions for In-House Comprehensive Examination

As the training officers for your department, you are authorized by the Certification Council to conduct an in-house skills examination (100%) for this level of certification. You must be certified to the level that you are testing. For example, if you're FF II you can test both FF I and II, Awareness and Operations. The in-house skills examination must be completed and signed off prior to the actual certification spot check exam (administered by a UFRA certification tester).

- **Prior to conducting the test, review each candidate's training record.**

It is important that before doing this in-house training skills test, the candidate has completed training in all areas for the level being tested.

- **Select and brief a safety officer.**

Select a safety officer to assist you during the test. This person is there to protect the candidates from injury during the testing process, is not taking the test, and is not assisting with the testing process. The safety officer must be qualified at the level being tested.

To better evaluate the skills being tested and determine the candidate's readiness for the State Spot Check exam, follow these in-house exam instructions:

1. This is a TEST and there should be NO COACHING or TRAINING during the testing process. If a candidate fails to perform a skill, that skill will count as a first attempt failure and they will be given a second attempt. If they fail a second attempt, they need to be retrained on that skill and tested again. Only **qualified** candidates that have passed with **100%** should be allowed to take the State Spot Check exam.
2. Before beginning the testing process, conduct a meeting with all candidates and review the testing process. Explain that this is a test and that the same process being used for the in-house exam will be used during the state exam.
3. Designate two separate areas for students testing: One area for those who are in the testing process and one area for those who have not yet begun the testing process. If separate areas are not available, make sure someone is in the room to ensure that students do not discuss the testing material. Make sure these areas have no training manuals or other reference materials for students to look at while awaiting testing.
4. To evaluate a candidate's performance, use the following as a guide:
 - a. The skill is completed in the allotted time.
 - b. Competence is shown by completing all performance criteria.
 - c. Safety is a priority while completing the skill.
5. At each test station, the tester will read the skill to be demonstrated, the condition to be met, and the time limit to complete each skill. This information is contained in the skill section of each standards packet. Do this with each student as they come to each testing station. Ask for any questions. As each skill is tested and completed, sign it off in the section provided on the candidate's training record.

By conducting the in-house skills examination in this manner, you will prepare your candidates to successfully pass the State Spot Check exam. This will also ensure that training records are current and that only those who are truly prepared take the Certification Examination.

APPENDIX - C

CERTIFICATION FORMS AND FEES

Certification forms and fees are located on our website at UVU.edu/UFRA under Certification
https://www.uvu.edu/ufra/certification/certification_forms.html