

# Utah Fire Service Certification System

## TECHNICAL RESCUE SWIFTWATER RESCUE



## CERTIFICATION STANDARD

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Evolution Examinations- January 2025  
Accreditation Updates- October 2025

# **Utah Fire Service Certification Council**

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## **Swiftwater 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 Swiftwater 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.

### **Swiftwater Rescue Committee**

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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 18, “Swiftwater 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 – Swiftwater 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 18 of NFPA 1006 (2021). In order to certify at the Technical Rescue level, candidates must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Complete the 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 18, “Swiftwater 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 the 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), 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 Swiftwater 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 18, and the skills as approved by the UFSCC contained within the Utah certification standard. All training received must be documented and recorded in the Training Record. All testing for Swiftwater 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 to qualify to take the state certification examination.

1. A Swiftwater Rescue course which meets the requirements of NFPA 1006 (2021), Chapter 18. A Training Record, as provided in this standard, must be completed for each person.
2. Department Based Training. Departments can create their own Swiftwater Rescue course which meets the requirements as outlined in the “Swiftwater Rescue” section of Chapter 18 in NFPA 1006 (2021). A Training Record, 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 Swiftwater Rescue are covered in:

- Chapter 18, “Swiftwater Rescue,” in NFPA 1006 (2021)
- Steve Treinish, *Water Rescue*, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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 Swiftwater 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 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 candidates who successfully pass the department's skills test will be allowed to participate in the Certification Council's skills spot check examination. Department Training 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 18.

| <b>Chapter 18 Certification Level</b> | <b># of Questions</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Swiftwater Rescue - Awareness         | 20                    |
| Swiftwater Rescue - Operations        | 30                    |
| Swiftwater Rescue - Technician        | 25                    |

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.**

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

The skills will be from NFPA 1006 (2021), Chapter 18. 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. Candidates 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.

**Effective January 1, 2025**, the fee structure for first, second, and third attempts on exams has changed. All exam attempts are \$75, except for Firefighter I and II, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations. (See Appendix C for more details.)

Candidates who have met the requirements for certification will continue to have access to their wallet ID card and certificate online via the UFRA Certification and Training Lookup System at <https://uvu.edu/ufra/lookup/>. Patches are included with each certification (if available for that level). Additional patches are \$10. New printed certificates with an original seal attached may be requested from the Certification Department for a fee of \$20 per certificate. A hard wallet ID card is \$20.

The new fee structure applies to Utah fire departments only. All other Utah agencies will be assessed a \$90 fee per attempt for each level. Reciprocity is \$200 per application (for all levels), but it must include Pro Board or IFSAC certificates (with an IFSAC seal).

### ***Prerequisites for Technical Rescue Certification***

To qualify to train on the NFPA 1006 (2021) section listed in the left column, candidates must have completed the prerequisite training indicated in the right column.

| <b>Training</b>                       | <b>Prerequisites</b>                                 |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Surface Water – Awareness (17.1)      |  |
| Surface Water – Operations (17.2)     | 17.1   |
| Rope Rescue – Operations (5.2)        | 5.1  |
| Rope Rescue – Technician (5.3)        | 5.2  |
| Swiftwater Rescue - Awareness (18.1)  |  |
| Swiftwater Rescue - Operations (18.2) | 18.1, 17.1 & 17.2 (Surface Water), 5.2 (Rope Rescue) |
| Swiftwater Rescue - Technician (18.3) | 18.2, 17.3 (Surface Water), 5.3 (Rope Rescue)        |

### ***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 Swiftwater 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:***

Utah Fire Service Certification Council  
Utah Fire & Rescue Academy  
3131 Mike Jense Parkway, Provo, UT 84601,  
801-863-7709  
[www.uvu.edu/ufra](http://www.uvu.edu/ufra)

# **TECHNICAL RESCUE CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST**

## **ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- ☐ Each candidate has met the requirements listed in NFPA 1006, (2021).
- ☐ 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 skills and evolution examination.
- ☐ A Spot Check examination was administered by an approved UFRA Certification Tester(s).

## **TECHNICAL RESCUE CERTIFICATION:**

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

**SECTION I**  
**SWIFTWATER RESCUE - AWARENESS**

## SWIFTWATER 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 swiftwater rescue incident (including search parameters, risk-benefit analysis, etc.).**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.1.1-18.1.4

CONDITION: Given the graphic of the scene (photo) or an AHJ approved testing location, perform an effective scene size-up for a swiftwater rescue incident.

COMPETENCE:

- Identify location of the incident.
- Describe the nature of the incident (what happened) i.e., tube In moving water, victims, witnesses, parties involved, etc.
- Identify victim(s) point last seen
- Use specific planning forms per AHJ
- Determine search parameters, identify search measures (passive/active)
- Secure scene and place scene control barriers
- Identify any existing or potential hazards: water conditions, weather, etc.
- Identify limitations and request additional response team(s)
- Request additional resources and type of resources needed (PPE, watercraft, etc.)
- Operate control and mitigation equipment to keep people out of hazard area
- Establish command

TIME: 5 minutes

### **2. Conduct a witness interview.**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.1.1

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 pre-plan 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 swiftwater rescue incident.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.1.2

CONDITION: Given a swiftwater 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 swiftwater rescue:
  - Dry suit/wet suit
  - PFD type III/V
  - Whistle, knife, helmet
  - Swim fins
  - Throw bag
  - Watercraft, etc.
  - Rope rescue equipment

TIME: 2 minutes

### 4. Recognize swiftwater incident hazards, isolation procedures, and resource capabilities and limitations.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.1.2, 18.1.3

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

COMPETENCE:

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

TIME: 5 minutes

**5. Support operations or technician level responders for a given swiftwater rescue incident.**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.1.3, 18.1.4

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

COMPETENCE:

- Identify or describe **at least five** 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

## Swiftwater 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, 18

SKILL EXAM  
EVOLUTION: **Establish command, perform an appropriate scene size-up and create a corresponding Incident Action Plan for a swiftwater scenario.**

CONDITION: Given a scenario of a swiftwater incident, notepad and pencil, and graphics or AHJ approved testing 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 swiftwater rescue for an unknown number of victims in the water.

COMPETENCE:

- Establish command
- Conduct a scene size-up and identify additional resources needed and limitations of the current team.
- Secure and interview witnesses about:
  - Identify point last seen (PLS)
  - Age/gender - description
  - Clothing
  - Swimmer/non-swimmer
  - Floatation device
- Use specific planning forms per AHJ
- Read rescue materials, gather information and resources
- 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
- Operate control and mitigation equipment to keep people out of the hazard area
- Function within an incident management system, implement an Incident Action Plan, and follow ICS and AHJ operational protocols

TIME: 10 minutes

# UTAH FIRE SERVICE CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

## SWIFTWATER RESCUE - AWARENESS

*NFPA 1006, 2021 edition  
18.1.1-18.1.4*

### *SWIFTWATER - AWARENESS TRAINING RECORD / IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE FORM*

| <b>Candidate Name:</b>  |                 |            | <b>Department:</b>                       |            |      |   |
|---|-----------------|------------|--|------------|------|---|
| <b>Candidate Signature:</b>   |                 |            | <b>Date of Completion:</b>               |            |      |   |
| <b>Chief/Training Officer:</b>  |                 |            | <b>Chief/Training Officer Signature:</b> |            |      |   |
| <p>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.</p> |                 |            |  |            |      |   |
| SECTION   | TRAINING RECORD |            | IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS             |            |      | SKILL OBJECTIVES & EVOLUTION  |
|   | DATE            | INSTRUCTOR | DATE                                     | INSTRUCTOR | PASS |   |
| 18.1.1, 18.1.2  |                 |            |  |            |      | 1. Conduct a scene size-up/site survey for a swiftwater rescue incident (including search parameters, risk-benefit analysis, etc.). |
| 18.1.1  |                 |            |  |            |      | 2. Conduct a witness interview.   |
| 18.1.2  |                 |            |  |            |      | 3. Identify type of PPE and equipment requirements for a swiftwater rescue incident.  |
| 18.1.2, 18.1.3  |                 |            |  |            |      | 4. Recognize swiftwater incident hazards, isolation procedures, and resource capabilities and limitations.                          |
| 18.1.3, 18.1.4  |                 |            |  |            |      | 5. Support operations or technician level responders for a given swiftwater rescue incident.  |
| <b>Certification Examination Evolution</b>  |                 |            |  |            |      | Establish command, perform an appropriate scene size-up and create a corresponding Incident Action Plan for a swiftwater scenario.  |

**SECTION II**  
**SWIFTWATER RESCUE - OPERATIONS**

## SWIFTWATER RESCUE – OPERATIONS SKILL OBJECTIVES

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

### **\*\* (In Moving Water) Swiftwater Safety Requirements:**

*The following minimum is required to perform swiftwater rescue testing: four (4) or more personnel with the roles of upstream spotter(s), downstream safety containment, 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. Identify types of PPE, equipment requirements, and their uses and limitations for a swiftwater rescue incident.**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.2.4, 18.2.5

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

COMPETENCE:

- Identify and describe the type(s) of PPE and equipment used in a swiftwater rescue, their uses and their limitations.
  - Dry suit/wet suit
  - PFD type III/V
  - Whistle, knife, helmet
  - Swim fins
  - Throw bag
  - Rescue boards
  - Watercraft, other, etc.
  - Rope rescue equipment

TIME: 5 minutes

#### **2. Don appropriate level PPE for swiftwater rescue operations.**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.2.4, 18.2.5

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

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Don appropriate task specific PPE:
  - Wet suit/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

TIME: 10 minutes

### 3. Demonstrate the ability to deploy a throw bag.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.2.4

CONDITION: Given a water rescue throw bag, wearing appropriate level of PPE, demonstrate and verbalize the procedures for deploying a throw bag.

***Follow \*\* (In moving water) Swiftwater Safety Requirements.***

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 (without losing 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 to or entangled in device (verbalize)
- Ensure shore-based victim removal techniques facilitate operational efficiency (verbalize)

TIME: 10 minutes

### 4. Develop an Incident Action Plan for a shore-based rescue.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.2.2

CONDITION: Given a scenario of a swiftwater incident, at an AHJ testing location or a photo of a swiftwater rescue incident.

Develop/verbalize an Incident Action Plan for a shore-based rescue (using any AHJ SOPs or tactical worksheets).

SCENARIO: Your team has been called to a swiftwater 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 rescue or recovery operation
- Notify the appropriate response for the given situation.

TIME: 5 minutes

**5. Demonstrate fundamental survival, swimming, and self-rescue skills.**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 17.3.1, 18.2.2, 18.2.3

CONDITION: Given appropriate PPE and AHJ approved swimming location, safety equipment, props, swiftwater rescue swim aids as required, and floatation aids. \*AHJ watermanship test completed prior to skills test.

**Follow \*\* (*In moving water*) *Swiftwater Safety Requirements***

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Evaluate water conditions and hazards
  - Closest safe area such as eddy, shoreline, etc.
  - Floating debris
  - Current hazards such as rapids, etc.
- Demonstrate the ability to float and swim in different water conditions utilizing appropriate PPE and/or floatation devices
- Apply water survival skills as required (defensive swimming)
- Verbalize communication methods of distress to team members (voice, hand signal, whistle)

TIME: 5 minutes

**6. Demonstrate procedures for performing non-water entry rescue.**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.2.4

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

**Follow \*\* (*In moving water*) *Swiftwater Safety Requirements***

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE.
- Evaluate water conditions and hazards
  - Closest safe area such as eddy, shoreline, etc.
  - Floating debris
  - Current hazards such as rapids, etc.
- Apply water survival skills as required (defensive swimming) as needed
- Verbalize communication methods of distress to team members (voice, hand signal, whistle)
- Demonstrate the ability to perform a non-water entry rescue, (AHJ approved), including but not limited to: box cinch/canal cinch, droop lines, charlotte method, inflatable fire hose, etc.

TIME: 15 minutes

## **7. Demonstrate the use of rope systems for swiftwater rescue.**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| REFERENCE:  | NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.2.1   |
| CONDITION:  | As a part of a 4-6 member swiftwater rescue team, demonstrate the use of rope systems in a swiftwater rescue environment using AHJ approved rope rescue equipment and PPE.  |
| SCENARIO:   | With a simulated swiftwater environment (dry land), set up a simple mechanical advantage system, i.e., tension diagonal.  |
| COMPETENCE: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Select and use task specific PPE.</li><li>• Adequately estimate anticipated load.</li><li>• Ensure chosen equipment and system facilitates the efficiency of the operation.</li><li>• Perform a system safety check (Visual, Physical, Load).</li><li>• Manage and control movement of the load effectively.</li><li>• Communicate to team members (voice, hand signal, and/or whistle)</li><li>• Evaluate for potential problems</li></ul> |
| TIME:       | 20 minutes  |

## **8. Describe procedures for terminating a swiftwater rescue incident.**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| REFERENCE:  | NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.2.5   |
| CONDITION:  | Verbalize the procedures for termination of a swiftwater incident using AHJ approved policies and procedures.   |
| COMPETENCE: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure all rescuers and victim(s) are out of the hazard area</li><li>• Account for and secure all PPE and equipment</li><li>• Identify need to rehab/decontaminate any PPE, equipment, and personnel</li><li>• Ensure all proper notifications have been made, i.e., medical examiner, Division of Environmental Quality, law enforcement, etc.</li><li>• Ensure all documentation is completed</li><li>• Identify any potential need for critical incident stress management</li><li>• Perform a post-incident debriefing and analysis</li><li>• Terminate command</li></ul> |
| TIME:       | 10 minutes  |

**9. Describe swiftwater rescue hazards and conditions/features.**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.2.3

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

COMPETENCE:

- Identify/describe at least eight (8) of the following hazards/features:
  - Strainers
  - Upstream V
  - Downstream V
  - Eddies
  - Siphons
  - Pillow/cushion waves
  - Wave trains
  - Hydraulics
  - Standing waves
  - Undercuts
  - Current speeds/flows
  - Potential victim hazard and/or entrapment areas
  - Weather conditions
  - Water temperature
  - Shoreline conditions
  - Man-made features: dams, bridges, etc.

TIME: 5 minutes

## Swiftwater Rescue - 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.

### **\*\* (In moving water) Swiftwater Safety Requirements:**

*The following minimum is required to perform swiftwater rescue testing: four (4) or more personnel with the roles of upstream spotter(s), downstream safety containment, backup/rescue swimmer(s), and safety officer.*

*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.*

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.2

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, upstream spotter(s), downstream backup(s) and rigging team. Supplied with the appropriate equipment (PPE), following local protocols and AHJ procedures, demonstrate the ability to perform an operations swiftwater 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 swiftwater incident at an AHJ approved testing location. Wearing approved PPE and any AHJ approved swiftwater rescue equipment, i.e., watercraft, throw/reach devices, etc.

**Follow \*\* (In moving water) Swiftwater Safety Requirements**

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
- Establish communication with victim(s)
- Determine rescue methods and develop Incident Action Plan
  - Reach, throw, or watercraft
  - Construct rope system as needed
- Perform a swiftwater rescue of a victim in a safe and appropriate manner
- Terminate the incident utilizing policies and procedures

- Scene documentation included in report at the station (verbalize)
- Conduct AAR with crew

TIME:

1 hour

# UTAH FIRE SERVICE CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

## SWIFTWATER RESCUE - OPERATIONS

NFPA 1006, 2021 edition

18.2

### SWIFTWATER RESCUE - OPERATIONS TRAINING RECORD / IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE FORM

| <b>Candidate Name:</b>  |                 |            |                              |            | <b>Department:</b>                       |  |
|---|-----------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|--|--|
| <b>Candidate Signature:</b>   |                 |            |                              |            | <b>Date of Completion:</b>               |  |
| <b>Chief/Training Officer:</b>  |                 |            |                              |            | <b>Chief/Training Officer Signature:</b> |  |
| <p>This form may be completed on a computer but must be printed out for the Certification Tester to verify on test day. The date of completion and signatures of the Chief/Training Officer and the candidate must be original signatures. The 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. <i>The asterisks (**) below indicate that Swiftwater Safety Requirements must be followed for that skill.</i></p> |                 |            |                              |            |  |  |
| SECTION   | TRAINING RECORD |            | IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS |            |  | SKILL  |
|   | DATE            | INSTRUCTOR | DATE                         | INSTRUCTOR | PASS                                     |  |
| 5.2, 17.2, 18.1   |                 |            |                              |            |  | <i>All swiftwater prerequisites have been met prior to swiftwater rescue operations.</i>   |
| 18.2.4, 18.2.5  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 1. Identify types of PPE, equipment requirements, and their uses and limitations for a swiftwater rescue incident.   |
| 18.2.4, 18.2.5  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 2. Don appropriate level PPE for swiftwater rescue operations.   |
| 18.2.4  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 3. Demonstrate the ability to deploy a throw bag. **   |
| 18.2.2  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 4. Develop an Incident Action Plan for a shore-based rescue.   |
| 17.3.1, 18.2.2, 18.2.3  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 5. Demonstrate fundamental survival, swimming, and self-rescue skills. **  |
| 18.2.4  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 6. Demonstrate procedures for performing non-water entry rescue. **  |
| 18.2.1  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 7. Demonstrate the use of rope systems for swiftwater rescue. **   |
| 18.2.5  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 8. Describe procedures for terminating a swiftwater rescue incident.   |
| 18.2.3  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 9. Describe swiftwater rescue hazards and conditions/features.   |
| <b>Certification Examination Evolution</b>  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 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 swiftwater rescue. ** |

**SECTION III**  
**SWIFTWATER RESCUE - TECHNICIAN**

## SWIFTWATER RESCUE – TECHNICIAN SKILL OBJECTIVES

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

**\*\* (In moving water) Swiftwater Safety Requirements:**

*The following minimum is required to perform swiftwater rescue testing: four or more personnel with the roles of upstream spotter(s), downstream safety containment, 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. A. Demonstrate the ability to swim a swiftwater course, which includes: defensive swimming, strainer drill, eddy line, tethered swim with blowout (entry/exit safely).**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.2

CONDITION: Given water rescue personal protective equipment and swim aids as required; an AHJ approved location with a course designed large enough to accommodate entry, strainer, and exit; safety equipment and props as required (**rescue team must be in place**).

**Follow \*\* (In moving water) Swiftwater Safety Requirements**

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Demonstrate the ability to perform defensive swimming techniques, utilizing appropriate ferry lines safely
- Demonstrate the ability to enter and exit an eddy safely
- Apply water survival skills
- Demonstrate the ability to navigate strainer prop safely

TIME: 30 minutes

**1. B. Demonstrate the ability to swim a swiftwater course, which includes: defensive swimming, strainer drill, eddy line, tethered swim with blowout (entry/exit safely).**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.2

CONDITION: Given water rescue personal protective equipment WITHOUT the use swim aids as required; an AHJ approved location with a course designed large enough to accommodate entry, strainer, and exit; safety equipment and props as required (**rescue team must be in place**).

**Follow \*\* (In moving water) Swiftwater Safety Requirements**

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Demonstrate the ability to perform defensive swimming techniques, utilizing appropriate ferry lines safely

- Demonstrate the ability to enter and exit an eddy safely
- Apply water survival skills
- Demonstrate the ability to navigate strainer prop safely

TIME: 30 minutes

## 2. Identify swiftwater features and hazards.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.1

CONDITION: Given an AHJ approved testing swiftwater location, identify/describe **at least eight** features and hazards.

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Identify/describe **at least eight** of the following hazards/features:
  - Upstream V
  - Downstream V
  - Upstream or downstream
  - Current or tide
  - Wave train
  - Standing wave
  - Hydraulics
  - Eddy lines
  - Strainers
  - Undercuts
  - Siphons
  - Low head dams
  - Pillow waves/cushion waves
  - Helical/laminar flows

TIME: 10 minutes

## 3. A. Demonstrate the ability to perform an untethered entry/go swiftwater rescue.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.1, 18.3.2, 18.3.3

CONDITION: Given a swiftwater rescue incident, personal protective equipment, swim aids as required, and a water bound victim in appropriate PPE.

**Follow \*\* (In moving water) Swiftwater Safety Requirements**

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Don task specific PPE in a correct and timely manner
- Implement personal accountability system
- Select and use appropriate floatation and/or swim aids as required
- Evaluate water conditions to identify safe entry points and identify hazards
- Apply water survival skills as required (avoid hazards,

- navigate currents, take 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. B. Demonstrate the ability to perform a tethered/live bait swiftwater rescue.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.1, 18.3.2, 18.3.3

CONDITION: Given a swiftwater rescue incident, personal protective equipment, swim aids as required, line tenders, and a water bound victim in appropriate PPE.  
**Follow \*\* (*In moving water*) Swiftwater Safety Requirements**

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Don task specific PPE in a correct and timely manner
- Implement personal accountability system
- Select and use appropriate floatation and/or swim aids as required
- Evaluate water conditions to identify safe entry and exit points and identify hazards
- Apply water survival skills as required (avoid hazards, navigate currents, take most direct path, etc.)
- Communicate with victim and/or team effectively
- Implement tactics to avoid contact with panicked/aggressive victim
- Demonstrate the ability to perform a tethered rescue and exit the water safely
- Move victim to a safe area and communicate medical information and/or transfer victim to EMS

TIME: 30 minutes

### 3. C. Demonstrate the ability to perform a V or Y lower swiftwater rescue.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.1, 18.3.2, 18.3.3

CONDITION: Given a swiftwater rescue team with a minimum of seven (7) members, personal protective equipment, swim aids as required, line tenders, and an objective to reach.  
**Follow \*\* (*In moving water*) Swiftwater Safety Requirements**

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Don task specific PPE in a correct and timely manner
- Implement personal accountability system
- Select and use appropriate floatation and/or swim aids as required

- Evaluate water conditions to identify safe entry and exit points and identify hazards
- Apply water survival skills as required (avoid hazards, navigate currents, take most direct path, etc.)
- Communicate with team effectively
- Demonstrate the ability to perform a V or Y lower and exit the water safely
- Move victim to safe area and communicate medical information and/or transfer victim to EMS

TIME: 30 minutes

### 3. D. Demonstrate the ability to perform a team based shallow water crossing in swiftwater.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.1, 18.3.2, 18.3.3

CONDITION: Given a swiftwater rescue team, personal protective equipment, and required equipment and tools, reach an objective as a team and exit the water safely.

**Follow \*\* (*In moving water*) *Swiftwater Safety Requirements***

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Don task specific PPE in a correct and timely manner
- Implement personal accountability system
- Select and use appropriate floatation and/or swim aids as required
- Evaluate water conditions to identify safe entry and exit points and identify hazards
- Apply water survival skills as required (avoid hazards, navigate currents, take most direct path, etc.)
- Communicate with team effectively
- Implement tactics to avoid contact with panicked/aggressive victim
- Demonstrate the ability to perform a shallow water crossing in swiftwater and then exit the water safely
- Move victim to safe area and communicate medical information and/or transfer victim to EMS

TIME: 30 minutes

### 3. E. Demonstrate the ability to perform a rope based foot entrapment rescue in swiftwater.

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.1, 18.3.2, 18.3.3

CONDITION: Given an AHJ approved testing location, swiftwater rescue team, personal protective equipment, and required equipment and tools (rope bags, etc.), perform a rescue on a water bound victim with a simulated foot entrapment.

**Follow \*\* (*In moving water*) *Swiftwater Safety Requirements***

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE

- Don task specific PPE in a correct and timely manner
- Implement personal accountability system
- Select and use appropriate floatation and/or swim aids as required
- Evaluate water conditions to identify safe entry and exit points and identify hazards
- Apply water survival skills as required (avoid hazards, navigate currents, take most direct path, etc.)
- Communicate with team effectively
- Implement tactics to avoid contact with panicked/aggressive victim
- Demonstrate the ability to perform a rope based, foot entrapment rescue in swiftwater and then exit the water safely
- Move victim to safe area and communicate medical information and/or transfer victim to EMS

TIME: 30 minutes

**4. Describe the ability to perform defensive tactics for a panicked or stressed victim.**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.1, 18.3.2

SCENARIO: Given a water bound victim in a stressed or panicked situation.

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Don task specific PPE in a correct and timely manner
- Implement personal accountability system
- Evaluate water conditions to identify safe entry and exit points and identify hazards
- Apply water survival skills as required (avoid hazards, navigates currents, takes most direct path, etc.)
- Implement tactics to avoid contact with panicked/aggressive victim (approach from rear, use defensive swimming position, etc.)
- Implement tactics to release oneself from the grasp of a panicked/aggressive victim (block, release, escape)
- Communicate with victim and/or team effectively
- Move victim to safe area and communicate medical information and/or transfer victim to EMS
- Doff PPE

TIME: 5 minutes

**5. Demonstrate the ability to perform an entry swiftwater rescue, from a watercraft (optional).**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.3

CONDITION: Given a watercraft that is available to the team, an AHJ

approved testing location, and personal protective equipment, perform an entry/go swiftwater rescue from a watercraft.

**Follow \*\* (In moving water) Swiftwater Safety Requirements**

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Establish communications system with team members (hand signal, whistle, voice)
- Assess Swiftwater conditions
- Implement Personal Accountability system
- 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

**6. Describe and/or demonstrate a vehicle swiftwater rescue.**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.3

CONDITION: Given a swiftwater incident (or photo), AHJ approved testing location, simulated victim, water rescue personal protective equipment, equipment and tools, and a water bound vehicle (as needed).

**Follow \*\* Swiftwater safety requirements**

SCENARIO: Given a swiftwater incident with a vehicle in the water, describe and/or demonstrate a swiftwater rescue of a victim.

COMPETENCE:

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

TIME: 5 minutes (to describe) **and/or** 30 minutes (to demonstrate)

**7. Demonstrate the ability to recover a capsized vessel in Swiftwater conditions.**

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3.3

CONDITION: Given a 2-4 member team, watercraft that is available to the team and personal protective equipment. Demonstrate how to safely recover a capsized vessel and safely move the vessel in swift water conditions.

**Follow \*\* *Swiftwater safety requirements (if demonstrated)***

SCENARIO: Given a Swiftwater incident with a vehicle in the water, demonstrate a Swiftwater rescue of a capsized vessel.

COMPETENCE:

- Select and use task specific PPE
- Establish communications system with team members (hand signal, whistle, voice)
- Assess Swiftwater conditions
- Implement personal accountability system
- Safely approach capsized vehicle
- Using appropriate skills and methods to recover capsized vessel
- Demonstrate emergency engine starting techniques if applicable
- Safely maneuver vessel in Swiftwater conditions
- Use emergency and safety equipment as required

TIME: 20 minutes

## SWIFTWATER RESCUE – TECHNICIAN 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.**

**\*\* (In moving water) Swiftwater Safety Requirements:**

*The following minimum is required to perform swiftwater rescue testing: four (4) or more personnel with the roles of upstream spotter(s), downstream safety containment, 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.*

REFERENCE: NFPA 1006, 2021 edition, 18.3

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, rescue swimmer(s), boat operator(s), upstream spotter(s), downstream backup(s), and rigging team. Supplied with the appropriate equipment (PPE), following local protocols and AHJ procedures, demonstrate the ability to direct and perform an operation as a technician at a swiftwater rescue incident.**

*\*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 swiftwater incident at an AHJ approved testing location. Wearing approved PPE and any AHJ approved water rescue equipment, i.e., watercraft, throw/reach devices, etc.  
Follow **\*\* (In moving water) Swiftwater Safety Requirements**

SCENARIO: Your team has been called to a swiftwater rescue for an unknown number of victim(s) in the water. As a team, fulfilling the swiftwater rescue roles, perform a technician level swiftwater 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.
- Perform an “In moving water” swiftwater rescue skill, i.e., (one from Training Record, skills 3a-e)
- Terminate the incident utilizing policies and procedures.

TIME: 1 hour

# UTAH FIRE SERVICE CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

## SWIFTWATER RESCUE - TECHNICIAN

NFPA 1006, 2021 edition

18.3

### SWIFTWATER RESCUE - TECHNICIAN TRAINING RECORD / IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE FORM

| <b>Candidate Name:</b>  |                 |            |                              |            | <b>Department:</b>                       |   |
|---|-----------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|--|---|
| <b>Candidate Signature:</b>   |                 |            |                              |            | <b>Date of Completion:</b>               |   |
| <b>Chief/Training Officer:</b>  |                 |            |                              |            | <b>Chief/Training Officer Signature:</b> |   |
| <p>This form may be completed on a computer but must be printed out for the Certification Tester to verify on test day. The date of completion and signatures of the Chief/Training Officer and the candidate must be original signatures. The 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. <i>The asterisks (**) below indicate that Swiftwater Safety Requirements must be followed for that skill.</i></p> |                 |            |                              |            |  |   |
| SECTION   | TRAINING RECORD |            | IN-HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS |            |  | SKILL OBJECTIVES & EVOLUTION  |
|   | DATE            | INSTRUCTOR | DATE                         | INSTRUCTOR | PASS                                     |   |
| 5.3, 17.3, 18.2   |                 |            |                              |            |  | <i>All swiftwater prerequisites have been met prior to swiftwater rescue technician.</i>  |
| 18.3.2  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 1. Demonstrate the ability to swim a swiftwater course (entry/exit safely), which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defensive swimming **</li> <li>• Strainer Drill **</li> <li>• Eddy line **</li> <li>• Tethered swim with blowout **</li> </ul>   |
| 18.3.1  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 2. Identify swiftwater features and hazards.  |
| 18.3.1, 18.3.2, 18.3.3  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 3. Demonstrate the ability to perform an "In moving water" swiftwater rescue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Untethered, entry/go swiftwater rescue **</li> <li>b. Tethered/live bait **</li> <li>c. V/Y lowers **</li> <li>d. Shallow water crossing **</li> <li>e. Foot entrapments (rope based) **</li> </ul> |
| 18.3.1, 18.3.2  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 4. Describe the ability to perform defensive tactics for a panicked or stressed victim.   |
| 18.3.3  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 5. Demonstrate the ability to perform an entry swiftwater rescue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. From a watercraft ** (<i>This skill is optional</i>)</li> </ul>   |
| 18.3.3  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 6. Describe and/or demonstrate a vehicle swiftwater rescue. (** if demonstrated)  |
| 18.3.3  |                 |            |                              |            |  | 7. Demonstrate the ability to recover a capsized vessel in Swiftwater conditions  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Certification<br/>Examination<br/>Evolution</b> |  |  |  |  |  | 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 as a technician at a swiftwater rescue incident. ** |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

## **APPENDIX A**

## Swiftwater Photo Examples



## Swiftwater Photo Examples



**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

Certification Forms are located on our website at UVU.edu/UFRA under Certification  
[https://www.uvu.edu/ufra/certification/certification\\_forms.html](https://www.uvu.edu/ufra/certification/certification_forms.html)

Which includes the following forms:

Intent to Participate  
 Examination Request  
 Certification/Recertification Request

### CERTIFICATION FEES – Effective January 1, 2025

#### Certification Levels Tested (per individual)

|    | 1st<br>Attempt | 2nd<br>Attempt | 3rd<br>Attempt | Certification Item                         |
|----|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| \$ | 10             | \$ 50          | \$ 75          | Firefighter I                              |
| \$ | 10             | \$ 50          | \$ 75          | Firefighter II                             |
|    | N/A            | N/A            | \$ 75          | Live Fire (tied with Firefighter I and II) |
| \$ | 10             | \$ 50          | \$ 75          | Hazardous Materials Awareness              |
| \$ | 10             | \$ 50          | \$ 75          | Hazardous Materials Operations             |

**\*\*The skills fee will be waived on the first and second attempt if taken the same day as the written exam.**

Fire departments in fifth/sixth-class counties will continue to receive a free first attempt for Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials Awareness, and Hazardous Materials Operations.

|    |    |    |    |    |    |   |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| \$ | 75 | \$ | 75 | \$ | 75 | <b>All other levels</b>   |
| \$ | 90 | \$ | 90 | \$ | 90 | Accredited Firefighter Academies (AFAs), "non-fire department" agencies |

#### Recertification Requests

|    |    |   |
|----|----|---|
| \$ | 10 | All levels - For each individual (excluding Technician levels)          |
| \$ | 10 | All "Technician" levels (Training Record required), for each individual |

#### Reciprocity

|    |     |  |
|----|-----|--|
| \$ | 200 | Per application (for all levels) must have Pro Board or IFSAC seals included |
|----|-----|--|

#### Other

|    |     |  |
|----|-----|--|
| \$ | 10  | Additional patches   |
| \$ | 20  | Printed original certificate with seal                       |
| \$ | 20  | ID card  |
| \$ | 350 | Out-of-state testing/certification: Officer I-IV (per level) |