

State of Oregon
Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

NFPA Swiftwater Rescue
Task Book

Task Book Assigned To:	
Name	DPSST Fire Service #
Agency Name	Date Initiated
Signature of Agency Head or Training Officer	Date Completed

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Additional copies of this document may be downloaded from the DPSST web site:
<http://www.oregon.gov/DPSST/FC/FireCertFormFree.shtml>

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NFPA Swiftwater Rescue Signature Page

This signature page is a tool for your agency to document completed tasks. The signature page and documentation should be kept on file at your agency. Please **do not** submit the Task Book or signature page to Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. Only a certified NFPA Technical Rescuer in that specialty area may sign off the Task Book.

Attest: The information contained in this Task Book is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification of information on this document is subject to penalty under ORS 162.055, et al, and ORS 162.305 and is cause to deny or revoke DPSST fire service professional certification(s).

Technical Rescuer Evaluators: Each Evaluator must document the following information:

Initials	DPSST Fire #	NFPA Technical Rescuer Certification Level	Printed Name	Signature

Task Book Qualification Record Books (Task Book) have been developed for various certification levels within the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) system. Each Task Book lists the job performance requirements (JPRs) for the specific certification level in a format that allows a candidate to be trained and evaluated during three (3) sequential sessions. Successful performance of all tasks, as observed and recorded by a qualified and approved evaluator will result in the candidate's eligibility for DPSST certification.

Before a job performance evaluation can be taken, all requisite knowledge and skills must be satisfied. In addition, all task book evaluations must be checked off by a qualified evaluator. When all prescribed requirements have been met, an application for Certification may be forwarded to DPSST. All certificates are mailed to the Training Officer at his/her Fire Service Agency.

TASK BOOK SPECIFICATIONS:

To successfully complete this task book, only an evaluator certified as an NFPA Swiftwater Rescue may sign off on the JPR's. 'Requisite Knowledge' sections may be completed during class and signed by the instructor. 'Requisite Skills' sections may be conducted and signed at the candidate's fire agency.

NFPA TASK BOOK INFORMATION:

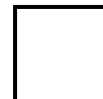
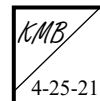
The JPRs covered in this Task Book meet or exceed all NFPA published standards for this certification level at the time of this publication. Mention of NFPA and its standards do not, and are not intended as adoption of—or reference to—NFPA standards. For more information on the complete job performance requirements and data, see the individual DPSST Task Book for that certification level.

HOW TO EVALUATE PERFORMANCE:

Each JPR has one to three corresponding boxes to the right in which to confirm a candidate's success. The evaluator must indicate successful passing by the candidate of each JPR by initialing and dating.

Example:

18.1.1 Size up a swiftwater rescue incident, given background information and applicable reference materials, so that the scope of the rescue is determined, the number of victims is identified, the last reported location of all the victims is established, witnesses and reporting parties are identified and interviewed, resource needs are assessed, primary search parameters are identified, and information required to develop an initial incident action plan is obtained.



TASK BOOK QUALIFICATION RECORD

FOR THE CERTIFICATION LEVEL OF

NFPA Swiftwater Rescue

Prior to becoming certified in this position, the sample candidate must successfully complete the following Job Performance Requirements (JPR). For each JPR there are requisite knowledge and skill requirements. The evaluator must initial and date in the box provided to indicate the meeting of those requirements before the firefighter may proceed.

18.1 Awareness Level. Prior to qualification at the awareness level in swiftwater rescue, the individual shall meet the requirements defined in Section 18.1.

18.1.1 Size up a swiftwater rescue incident, given background information and applicable reference materials, so that the scope of the rescue is determined, the number of victims is identified, the last reported location of all the victims is established, witnesses and reporting parties are identified and interviewed, resource needs are assessed, primary search parameters are identified, and information required to develop an initial incident action plan is obtained.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Types of reference materials and their uses, availability and capability of the resources, elements of an incident action plan and related information, relationship of the size-up to the incident management system, information gathering techniques and how that information is used in the size-up process, and basic search criteria for swiftwater rescue incidents.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to read technical rescue reference materials, gather information, use interview techniques, relay information, and use information-gathering sources.

18.1.2 Recognize incident hazards and initiate isolation procedures, given scene control barriers, personal protective equipment (PPE), requisite equipment, and available specialized resources, so that all hazards are identified; resource application fits the operational requirements; hazard isolation is considered; risks to rescuers, bystanders, and victims are minimized; and rescue time constraints are taken into account.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Resource capabilities and limitations; types and nature of incident hazards; equipment types and their use; isolation terminology, methods,

equipment, and implementation; operational requirement concerns; common types of rescuer and victim risks; risk/benefit analysis methods and practices; hazard recognition, isolation methods, and terminology; methods for controlling access to the scene; and types of technical references.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to identify resource capabilities and limitations, identify incident hazards, assess potential hazards to rescuers and bystanders, place scene control barriers, and operate control and mitigation equipment.

18.1.3 Recognize the need for technical rescue resources at an operations- or technician-level incident, given AHJ guidelines, so that the need for additional resources is identified, the response system is initiated, the scene is secured and rendered safe until additional resources arrive, and awareness-level personnel are incorporated into the operational plan.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Operational protocols, specific planning forms, types of incidents common to the AHJ, hazards, incident support operations and resources, and safety measures.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to apply operational protocols, select specific planning forms based on the types of incidents, identify and evaluate various types of hazards within the AHJ, request support and resources, and determine the required safety measures.

18.1.4 Support an operations- or technician-level incident, given an incident, an assignment, an incident action plan, and resources from the tool kit, so that the assignment is carried out, progress is reported to command, environmental concerns are managed, personnel rehabilitation is facilitated, and the incident action plan is supported.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. AHJ operational protocols, hazard recognition, incident management, PPE selection, resource selection and use, and scene support requirements.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to apply operational protocols, function within an incident management system, follow and implement an incident action plan, and report the task progress status to a supervisor or incident command.

18.2 Operations Level. The job performance requirements defined in 5.2.1 through 5.2.10, 5.2.12, 5.2.16, 5.2.18 through 5.2.20, 5.2.23, 5.2.24, and Sections 17.1, 17.2, 18.1, and 18.2 shall be met prior to or during operations-level qualification in swiftwater rescue.

18.2.1 Construct rope systems particular to the swiftwater rescue needs of the AHJ, given rescue personnel, rope equipment, a load to be moved, and personal protective equipment (PPE), so that the movement is controlled, the load is held in place when needed, and operating methods do not stress the system.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Rope systems specific to the swiftwater environment, capabilities and limitations of various rope systems, incident site evaluation as related to interference concerns and obstacle negotiation, system safety check protocol, procedures to evaluate system components for compromised integrity, common personnel assignments and duties, common and critical operational commands, and methods to increase the efficiency of load movement.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to determine incident needs, complete a system safety check, evaluate system components for compromised integrity, select personnel, communicate with personnel, manage movement of the load, and evaluate for potential problems.

18.2.2 Support swiftwater operations, given a designated mission, safety equipment, props, and water body, so that skills are demonstrated in a controlled environment, performance parameters are achieved, hazards are continually assessed, personnel accountability is maintained, and emergency procedures are demonstrated.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Support procedures, including search patterns, equipment setup, operation support equipment, and communications issues.

(B) Requisite Skills. Basic support skills, including the ability to serve as an upstream or downstream safety spotter, and the ability to implement personnel accountability systems and tend to an in-water rescuer.

18.2.3 * Assess moving water conditions, characteristics, and features in terms of hazards to the rescuer and victims, given an incident scenario and swiftwater tool kit, so that the flow and conditions are estimated

accurately, mechanisms of entrapment are considered, hazards are assessed, the depth and surrounding terrain are evaluated, and findings are documented.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Flow calculation methods, map or chart reading, local water hazards and conditions, entrapment mechanisms, and human physiology and survival factors.

(B) Requisite Skills. Determination of the flow and environmental factors, the effects on victims and rescuers, and interpretation of maps or charts.

18.2.4 * Perform a non-water entry rescue in the swiftwater and flooding environment, given an incident scenario, PPE, and swiftwater rescue tool kit, so that rescue is accomplished, and adopted policies and safety procedures are followed.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Types and capabilities of PPE, effects of hydrodynamic forces on rescuers and victims, hydrology and characteristics of water, behaviors of water-bound victims, water rescue rope-handling techniques, incident-specific hazard identification, criteria for selecting victim retrieval locations based on the water environment and conditions, hazards and limitations of shore-based rescue, local policies/procedures for rescue team activation, and information on local water environments.

(B) Requisite Skills. Select and use task-specific PPE, identify water hazards (i.e., upstream or downstream, current or tide), identify hazards directly related to the specific rescue, and demonstrate appropriate shore-based victim removal techniques.

18.2.5 * Terminate an incident, given PPE specific to the incident, isolation barriers, and a tool kit, so that rescuers and bystanders are protected and accounted for during termination operations; the party responsible is notified of any modifications or damage created during the operational period; documentation of loss or material use is accounted for; scene documentation is performed; and control is transferred to a responsible party; potential or existing hazards are communicated to that responsible party; debriefing, postincident analysis, and critique are conducted; and command is terminated.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. PPE characteristics, hazard and risk identification, isolation techniques, statutory requirements identifying responsible parties, accountability system use, reporting methods, and postincident analysis techniques.

(B) Requisite Skills. Ability to select and use hazard-specific PPE; decontaminate PPE; use barrier protection techniques, data collection, and record-keeping/reporting protocols; and participate in conduct postincident analysis activities.

18.3 Technician Level. The job performance requirements defined in 5.3.5, 5.3.6, 17.3.1 through 17.3.5 and Sections 18.2 and 18.3 shall be met prior to or during technician-level qualification in swiftwater rescue.

18.3.1 Perform an entry rescue in the swiftwater and flooding environment, given an incident scenario, PPE, and swiftwater rescue tool kit, so that rescue is accomplished and adopted policies and safety procedures are followed.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Types and capabilities of PPE, effects of hydrodynamic forces on rescuers and victims, hydrology and characteristics of water, behaviors of water-bound victims, water rescue rope-handling techniques, incident-specific hazard identification, criteria for selecting victim retrieval locations based on the water environment and conditions, hazards and limitations of shore-based rescue, personnel accountability protocols, and information on local water environments.

(B) Requisite Skills. Select and utilize task-specific PPE, identify water hazards (i.e., upstream or downstream, current or tide), identify hazards directly related to the specific rescue, and demonstrate appropriate victim packaging and removal techniques, and use a personnel accountability system.

18.3.2 Negotiate a designated swiftwater course, given a course that is representative of the bodies of swiftwater existing or anticipated within the geographic confines of the AHJ, water rescue PPE, and swim aids as required, so that the specified objective is reached, all performance parameters are achieved, movement is controlled, hazards are continually assessed, distress signals are demonstrated, and rapid intervention for the rescuer has been staged for deployment.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Hydrology and specific hazards anticipated for representative water rescue environments (shoreline, in-water, and climatic), selection criteria for water rescue PPE and swim aids for anticipated water conditions and hazards, and swimming techniques for a representative body of water, and personnel accountability methods.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to swim and float in different water conditions with and without flotation aids or swim aids as required, apply water survival skills, don and doff PPE, select and use swim aids, utilize communications systems, implement personnel accountability protocols, and evaluate water conditions to identify entry points and hazards.

18.3.3 Perform an entry swiftwater rescue from a rescue platform such as a vessel, boat, watercraft, or other waterborne transportation aid while negotiating a designated swiftwater course, given a course that is representative of the bodies of swiftwater existing or anticipated within the geographical confines of the AHJ, water rescue PPE, and swim aids as required, so that the specific objective is reached, all performance parameters are achieved, movement is controlled, hazards are continually assessed, distress signals are demonstrated, personnel accountability is implemented, and rapid intervention for the rescuers has been staged for deployment.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. The operator and/or crew of any waterborne transportation aid must be knowledgeable in the application and safe operation of the waterborne transportation device and its limitations, and follow all manufacturers' recommendations. The operator and crew of the waterborne transportation aid must comply with all the regulatory and applicable laws of safe water transportation according to the AHJ and understand personnel accountability methods.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to locate water entry and egress methods from the platform used, assess swiftwater conditions, recover capsized vessels, move vessels in swiftwater conditions, implement personnel accountability methods, and understand patient packaging and handling techniques.