



# ROPE RESCUE AWARENESS/OPERATIONS AND ROPE RESCUE TECHNICIAN Curriculum Implementation Plan

Updated: September 2021

## OVERVIEW

This document is intended to provide information for all State Fire Training (SFT) stakeholders on new curriculum titled Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations (2017) and Rope Rescue Technician (2017). Historically, Rescue Systems 1 and Rescue Systems 2 has been delivered through SFT’s curriculum under the Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP). Stakeholders including FEMA, Office of Emergency Services (OES), FIRESCOPE, SFT representatives, and local emergency rescue response resources were consulted to discuss updating rescue curriculum and coming into alignment with the National Fire Protection Association standards. This alignment was identified to keep FEMA, OES-State Agency Task Force, FIRESCOPE, SFT representatives, and local emergency rescue resources able to deploy while meeting the minimum standards as identified in NFPA, state and federal guidelines.

## IMPLEMENTATION

SFT recognizes that many candidates and agencies are vested in the current Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational (2007), Rope Rescue Technician (2013), Rescue Systems 1 Rope Rescue (Module 1), Rescue Systems 1 Ladder Rescue Systems (Module 3), therefore, the existing curriculum will be available for delivery during the transition period.

**Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations (2017) ..... Available September 1, 2020**

**Rope Rescue Technician (2017) ..... Available September 1, 2020**

New Curriculum	Hours
Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations (2017)	40 Hours
Rope Rescue Technician (2017)	40 Hours

**Rope Rescue Technician (2013) Curriculum..... Phase out December 31, 2021**  
Effective December 31, 2021, Rope Rescue Technician (2013) curriculum will be retired.

**Rescue Systems 1: Rope Rescue (Module 1) Curriculum..... TBD**  
Rescue Systems 1: Rope Rescue (Module 1) curriculum will be retired once the new Structural Collapse course plans are developed by State Fire Training.

**Rescue Systems 1: Rope Rescue (Module 3) Curriculum..... TBD**  
Effective December 31, 2021, Rescue Systems 1: Ladder Rescue Systems (Module 3) curriculum will be retired once the new Structural Collapse course plans are developed by State Fire Training.

## **INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS**

**Instructor Registration ..... Available September 1, 2020**

### **Existing Instructors**

Due to the significant changes in both the NFPA standards, curriculum and the requirements to instruct, existing instructors will need to meet the requirements listed below.

### ***Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations (2017) Course***

To teach the Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations (2017) course you must meet the following:

- SFT Registered Instructors for:
  - Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational (2007); **AND**
  - Rescue Systems 1: Rope Rescue (Module 1)\*; **AND**
  - Rescue Systems 1: Ladder Rescue Systems (Module 3)\*
- SFT Course Completion:
  - Rope Rescue Technician (2013); **OR**
  - Rope Rescue Technician (2017)

\*Note: SFT Registered Instructors must be in good standing and meet the Maintenance Requirement

- A Registered Rescue Systems Primary Instructor shall have taught at least two SFT Rescue Systems 1 – (Module 1 or 3) courses since August 1, 2016 **OR** became registered as a Rescue Systems 1 – (Module 1 or 3) Instructor on or after August 1, 2016

**OR**

SFT Registered Instructors for Rope Rescue Technician (2013)\*\* will be authorized to instruct Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations (2017).

### ***Rope Rescue Technician (2017) Course***

SFT Registered Instructors for Rope Rescue Technician (2013)\*\* will be authorized to instruct Rope Rescue Technician (2017).

\*\*Note: SFT Registered Instructors must be in good standing and meet the Maintenance Requirement

- A Registered Rope Rescue Technician Primary Instructor shall have taught at least two SFT Rope Rescue Technician courses since August 1, 2016 **OR** became registered as a Rope Rescue Technician (2013) Instructor on or after August 1, 2016.

### **FEMA Rope Rescue Instructors**

SFT is developing a process for FEMA Rope Rescue Lead/Adjunct Instructors to become a SFT Rope Rescue Instructor. FEMA Rope Rescue Lead/ Adjunct Instructors will need to meet the following requirements:

- Required to be a SFT Registered Instructor in good standing
- Letter of experience from approved signature authority or designee (see below)

- Held the rank of Fire Fighter and/or performed rescue duties within a Recognized Fire Agency in California for a minimum of three (3) years.
- Not required to complete the Rope Rescue Task Books or meet the education requirements as they have been fulfilled through the FEMA system.
- Documentation of applicant's FEMA Rope Rescue Lead/Adjunct instructor status in good standing (SFT is finalizing what documents will be accepted).

### **New Instructors**

#### *Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations*

New instructors for the Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations (2017) shall meet the SFT requirements for Registered Primary Instructors, and in addition will be required to complete the following:

- Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations Training (one of the following)
  - Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations (2017) course completion
  - Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational **AND** Rescue Systems 1 course completions
- Rope Rescue Technician (2013 or 2017) course completion
- Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations Instructor Task Book (2017)
- Letter of experience from approved signature authority or designee
  - Held the rank of Fire Fighter and/or performed rescue duties within a Recognized Fire Agency in California for a minimum of three (3) years.
- IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800 (SFT, CAL FIRE, FEMA, NWCG)

#### *Rope Rescue Technician*

New instructors for the Rope Rescue Technician (2017) shall meet the SFT requirements for Registered Primary Instructors, and in addition will be required to complete the following:

- Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations Training (one of the following)
  - Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations (2017) course completion
  - Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational **AND** Rescue Systems 1 course completions
- Rope Rescue Technician (2013 or 2017) course completion
- Rope Rescue Technician Instructor Task Book (2017)
- Letter of experience from approved signature authority or designee (see below)
  - Held the rank of Fire Fighter and/or performed rescue duties within a Recognized Fire Agency in California for a minimum of three (3) years.
- IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800 (SFT, CAL FIRE, FEMA, NWCG)

### **Currency Requirement**

To maintain Primary Instructor status, the Instructor shall deliver an approved SFT Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations (2017) course or Rope Rescue Technician (2017) course once every three (3) years. For those instructors not meeting the currency requirement, the Instructor shall either work under an approved qualified instructor or take the course. A letter or ICS 225 shall be submitted to update the qualifications.

### **POTENTIAL AGENCY IMPACTS**

Fire agencies desiring to utilize the course completion as a requirement for their recruitment/promotion activities should review the curriculum and certification requirements to ensure that all agency training needs are being met. After review, Fire Agencies should update their job specifications and recruitment documentation to reflect these new courses and requirements.

Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP), Accredited Local Academies (ALA), community colleges and all other local delivery venues should review the curriculum and seek approval from their curriculum committee / program sponsor, as appropriate. ARTPs should review the new ECFO curriculum and discuss potential impacts with their advisory committees.