



OPEN WATER RESCUE BOAT OPERATOR – SMALL AND LARGE VESSEL Curriculum Implementation Plan

Issued: May 2019

OVERVIEW

This document is intended to provide information for all State Fire Training (SFT) stakeholders on the new Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) **Open Water Rescue Boat Operator – Small Vessel** and **Open Water Rescue Boat Operator – Large Vessel** courses. The curriculum development was a collative effort with the Office of the State Fire Marshal - State Fire Training, Office of Emergency Services - Fire and Rescue Branch and CAL FIRE Training Center. Stakeholders are encouraged to study this information carefully and seek clarification from SFT if questions arise.

The new Course Plans have been developed based on the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Professional Qualification Standards, which includes *NFPA 1006 Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications* (2017). Additionally, *NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, *NFPA 1521 Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications*, and *NFPA 1561 Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System and Command Safety* aided as supporting documents when creating these course plans.

IMPLEMENTATION

Open Water Rescue Boat Operator – Small Vessel (2018).....Available April 1, 2019

Open Water Rescue Boat Operator – Large Vessel (2018).....Available April 1, 2019

INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS

Current registered instructors with State Fire Training that presently are instructors for the Office of Emergency Services (OES) Course titled: Surface Rescue Boat Technician and/or Surface Rescue Boat Specialist (2015) are authorized to deliver both the Open Water Rescue Boat Operator – Small Vessel and Open Water Rescue Boat Operator – Large Vessel (2018) course.

New instructors for both the Open Water Rescue Boat Operator – Small Vessel and Open Water Rescue Boat Operator – Large Vessel (2018) course shall meet the SFT requirements for Registered Instructor, and will be required to either take the course or apply for a Pace II review of their instructor qualifications, including appropriate education and practical experience relating to course content.

Additionally, a new instructor of the FSTEP courses, the following shall apply: the Open Water Rescue Boat Operator – Small Vessel and Open Water Rescue Boat Operator – Large Vessel (2018)



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1. Rank and Professional Experience:
 - a. Held the rank of suppression firefighter within a Recognized Fire Agency in California for a minimum of three years or;
 - b. Worked as a volunteer suppression firefighter or paid call firefighter with a Recognized Fire Agency in California for a minimum of five years.
 - c. Specific expertise in Technical Rescue as it relates to Open Water Search and Rescue Boat Operations and Seamanship. Expertise must be relative to the size of the vessel and power configuration and qualify based on the scope required for the curriculum chosen to facilitate.

Potential Agency Impacts

Fire agencies utilizing the existing OES (Office of Emergency Services) Surface Rescue Boat Technician and Surface Rescue Boat Specialist should have little or no impacts making the transition from those courses to the new update curriculum format for training or operational implementation. Special attention should be paid to these new updated FSTEP courses, are NOT included in any of SFT certification tracks at this time. Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP), Accredited Local Academies (ALA), community colleges and all other local delivery venues need to review the curriculum and seek approval from their curriculum committee/program sponsor, as appropriate.