



Water Rescue (2021) Implementation Plan

Issued: August 2024

OVERVIEW

This document is intended to provide information for all State Fire Training (SFT) stakeholders on the Water Rescue (2021) curriculum requirements. Stakeholders are encouraged to study this information carefully and seek clarification from SFT if questions arise.

The Water Rescue (2021) curriculum is presented as a Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) series. SFT developed a new curriculum training standard (CTS) guide, two course plans (awareness and technician), two instructor task books, and two student training records based on the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard, NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications (2021).

IMPLEMENTATION

Candidates entering the SFT system should enroll in the Water Rescue (2021) courses and comply with the Water Rescue (2021) certification and instructor requirements.

New Curriculum	Hours
Water Rescue Awareness and Operations (2021)	8 hours
Water Rescue Technician (2021)	40 hours

Water Rescue (2021) Curriculum..... September 1, 2024

Retirement of River and Flood Rescue Technician (2017) Curriculum..... December 31, 2024

Effective December 31, 2024, SFT will retire FSTEP River and Flood Rescue Technician (2017). On January 1, 2025, SFT will remove the curriculum from the SFT course catalog, and it will no longer be available.

INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS

Instructor Registration..... September 1, 2024

Instructors for the Water Rescue Awareness and Operations (2021) and Water Rescue Technician (2021) curriculum must meet the SFT requirements for Registered Instructor. Instructors must have appropriate education and practical experience relating to the specific course content.

Existing Registered Instructors

SFT will authorize existing River and Flood Rescue Technician (2017) Registered Instructors to teach both Water Rescue Awareness/Operations (2021) and Water Rescue Technician (2021). SFT will update the SFT User Portal.

In Process Instructor Candidates..... Deadline June 30, 2025

Candidates actively pursuing River and Flood Rescue Technician (2017) instructor registration must submit all documentation postmarked on or before June 30, 2025. SFT will return any 2017 task book postmarked on or after July 1, 2025, and require candidates to follow the New Instructor Registration requirements.

In process instructor candidates may teach two River and Flood Rescue Technician (2017) courses **or** one River and Flood Rescue Technician (2017) **and** one Water Rescue Technician (2021) course to meet their task book requirements. If an in-process instructor chooses to teach two Water Rescue Technician (2021) courses, they are required to adhere to the 2021 Instructor Registration requirements.

New Instructor Registration

Candidates are not required to be Registered Water Rescue Awareness and Operations (2021) Instructors to become Registered Water Rescue Technician (2021) Instructors. SFT will automatically authorize all Registered Water Rescue Technician (2021) Instructors to teach Water Rescue Awareness and Operations (2021).

Awareness and Operations	Technician
Be an OSFM Registered Instructor	Be an OSFM Registered Instructor
Complete one of the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River and Flood Rescue Technician (2017) or • Water Rescue Awareness and Operations (2021) or • Water Rescue Technician (2021) 	Complete one of the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River and Flood Rescue Technician (2017) or • Water Rescue Technician (2021)
Complete the Water Rescue Awareness and Operations (2021) Instructor Task Book	Complete the Water Rescue Technician (2021) Instructor Task Book
Have a minimum of three (3) years’ full-time or six (6) years’ part-time/volunteer experience performing suppression/rescue duties within a recognized fire agency in California	Have a minimum of three (3) years’ full-time or six (6) years’ part-time/volunteer experience performing suppression/rescue duties within a recognized fire agency in California
Provide a letter signed by their Fire Chief or authorized designee that verifies qualification to deliver Water Rescue Awareness and Operations training	Provide a letter signed by their Fire Chief or authorized designee that verifies qualification to deliver Water Rescue Technician training

Submit an SFT Instructor Registration Application	Submit an SFT Instructor Registration Application
Pay the registration fee	Pay the registration fee

POTENTIAL AGENCY IMPACTS

Fire agencies desiring to use the Water Rescue (2021) curriculum as a requirement for their recruitment/promotion activities need to review the Water Rescue (2021) curriculum requirements to be sure that all agency training needs are met. After review, fire agencies should update their job specifications and recruitment documentation to reflect these new courses and certification requirements.

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. ARTPs should review the new Water Rescue (2021) curriculum and discuss potential impacts with their advisory committees.