

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>

Revised January 2018

# NFPA Swiftwater Rescue Signature Page

A copy of the applicant's training must be included with the DPSST NFPA Technical Rescuer application when applying for **NFPA Swiftwater Rescue** certification. 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).

<b><u>NFPA Swiftwater Rescue Task Book Assigned To:</u></b>		
_____ Signature	_____ Printed Name	_____ DPSST Fire Service #
_____ Agency Name		_____ Date Initiated
_____ Signature of Certified Technician	_____ Printed Name of Certified Technician	_____ Date Completed

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

<b>Evaluator: Level of Technical Rescuer certification:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Tower	<input type="checkbox"/> Rope - Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Rope - Technician				
<input type="checkbox"/> Structural Collapse	<input type="checkbox"/> Confined Space	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Trench	<input type="checkbox"/> Machinery					
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Swiftwater	<input type="checkbox"/> Dive	<input type="checkbox"/> Surf	<input type="checkbox"/> Watercraft					
<b><u>Sections of chapter signed off by Evaluator:</u></b>									
___5	___6	___7	___8	___11	___12	___16	___17	___18	___20
_____ Signature of Evaluator		_____ Printed Name of Evaluator		_____ DPSST Fire Number		_____ Date			

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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.

To become certified at a specific level, the applicant must successfully complete the job performance requirements in sequence. Before a job performance evaluation can be taken, all requisite knowledge and skills must be satisfied. In addition, all relative task book evaluations must be checked off by the evaluator. When all prescribed requirements have been met, an application for Certification will 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.

### **NOTE TO FIRE SERVICE AGENCIES:**

These JPRs serve as general guidelines. As such they are not intended to replace specific sequences of apparatus or equipment operation that may be outlined by manufacturer specifications. At all times, standard operating procedures of the Fire Service Agency in which the evaluation is being conducted will govern. Fire Service Agencies should have available for evaluators a copy of manufacturer specifications and the Fire Service Agencies standard operational guidelines.

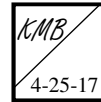
**\*A vertical line (|) to the left of the document indicates a change from the previous standard.**

### **HOW TO EVALUATE PERFORMANCE:**

Each JPR has one to three corresponding box(es) 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 (see example on the following page).

**Example:**

**17.1.1 Recognize the need for technical rescue resources at an incident, given AHJ guidelines, an operations- or technician-level incident, 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.**



# 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.

**17.1 Awareness Level.** The job performance requirements defined in 17.1.1 through 17.1.4 shall be met prior to awareness-level qualification in swiftwater rescue.

**17.1.1 Recognize the need for technical rescue resources at an incident, given AHJ guidelines, an operations- or technician-level incident, 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.

**17.1.2 Establish scene safety zones, given an incident, scene security barriers, incident location, incident information, and personal protective equipment (PPE), so that safety zones are designated, zone perimeters are consistent with incident requirements, perimeter markings can be recognized and understood by others, zone boundaries are communicated to incident command, and only authorized personnel are allowed access to the scene.**

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Use and selection of PPE, zone or area control flow and concepts, types of control devices and tools, types of existing and potential hazards, methods of hazard mitigation, organizational standard operating procedure, and staffing requirements.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to select and use PPE, apply crowd control concepts, position zone control devices, identify and mitigate existing or potential hazards, and personal safety techniques.

**17.1.3 Identify and support an operations- or technician-level incident, given an incident, an assignment, 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, scene support requirements including lighting, ventilation, and monitoring hazards zones.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** Apply operational protocols, function within an IMS, follow and implement an incident action plan, and report task progress status to supervisor or Incident Command.

**17.1.4 Size up an incident, given an incident, background information, and applicable reference materials, so that the operational mode is defined, resource availability and response time, types of rescues are determined, the number of victims are identified, the last reported locations of all victims are established, witnesses and reporting parties are identified and interviewed, resource needs are assessed, search parameters are identified, and information required to develop an incident action plan is obtained.**

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Types of reference materials and their uses, risk/benefit assessment, availability and capability of the resources, elements of an action plan and related information, relationship of size-up to the incident management system, and information gathering techniques and how that information is used in the size-up process.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to read specific rescue reference materials, interview people, gather information, relay information, manage witnesses, and use information sources.

**17.2 Operations Level.** The job performance requirements defined in Section , 10.1, 10.2.1 through 10.2.5, Section 16.1 and 16.2.1 through 16.2.13 shall be met prior to operations-level qualification in swiftwater rescue.

**17.2.1 Construct rope systems particular to the swiftwater rescue needs of the AHJ, given rescue personnel, rope equipment, a load to be moved, and 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.

**17.2.2 Support 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, 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 or spotter, and tend a “go” rescuer.

**17.2.3 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 flow and conditions are estimated accurately, mechanisms of entrapment are considered, hazards are assessed, 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 flow and environmental factors, the effects on victims and rescuers, and interpretation of maps or charts.

**17.2.4\* Perform a nonentry 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 waterbound victims, water rescue rope-handling techniques, incident-specific hazard identification, criteria for selecting victim retrieval locations based on 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 PPE specific to the water environment, don PPE, identify water hazards (i.e., upstream or downstream, current or tides), identify hazards directly related to the specific rescue, and demonstrate appropriate shore-based victim removal techniques.



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

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

(B) Selection and use of task and hazard-specific PPE, decontamination, use of barrier protection techniques, data collection and recordkeeping/reporting protocols, postincident analysis activities.

**17.3 Technician Level.** The job performance requirements defined in Section 10.2, 10.3.1 through 10.3.3, and 16.3.1 through 16.3.4 shall be met prior to technician-level qualification in swiftwater rescue.

**17.3.1 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 waterbound victims, water rescue rope-handling techniques, incident-specific hazard identification, criteria for selecting victim retrieval locations based on 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 PPE specific to the water environment, don PPE, identify water hazards (i.e., upstream or downstream, current or tides), identify hazards directly related to the specific rescue, and demonstrate appropriate victim removal techniques.

**17.3.2 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 communicated, 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 representative body of water.

**(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, and evaluate water conditions to identify entry points and hazards.

**17.3.3 Perform a 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 communicated, 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 regulatory and applicable laws of safe water transportation according to the AHJ.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability of the operator and crew to enter and exit the waterborne transportation device in a swiftwater condition, to correct a capsized waterborne transportation aid, to assist with safe waterborne transportation operations as members of a swiftwater rescue team on a vessel.

