PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY
SWIFT WATER OPERATIONS SKILL STATIONS

Effective March 1, 2026:
- All certification candidates are required to maintain an active Acadis user portal account. (Acadis portal location = OSFC website/ Training and Certification Portal, or click here: ENVISAGE Acadis®)
- All certification candidates are to be registered with the designated test site and rostered for the certification test.
- All certification candidates are to be registered within Acadis for the certification test.
  (You will need to register twice for the certification test, with the test site *and* Acadis)

Skill Stations

NFPA 1006 Swift Water Rescue Operations – Chapter 18 (2021 Edition)

Station A	Scene Assessment Search Parameters and Support Operations	18.2.2, 18.2.3	Mandatory Station
Station B	Rope Systems	18.2.1	Mandatory Station
Station C	Non-Entry Rescue	18.2.4	Mandatory Station
Station D	Termination	18.2.5	Mandatory Station

PPE Requirements:
- Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
- Water Rescue Helmet
- Water Rescue Gloves
- Dry suit w/ appropriate layering
- Water-appropriate boots/shoes
- Two (2) Locking Carabiners
- One (1) Whistle
- One (1) Knife
- One (1) light source

Note: If testing both Surface and Swift Water, the following Surface Water Operations stations will satisfy Swift Water Operations requirements, but the converse is **NOT** applicable:
- Surface Water Operations Station A – "Site Survey and Search Parameters" will satisfy the requirements of Swift Water Operations Station A – "Scene Assessment, Search Parameters and Support Operations"
- Surface Water Operations Station H – "Rope Systems Operation" will satisfy the requirements of Swift Water Operations Station B – "Rope Systems"
- Surface Water Operations Station D – "Shore-based Rescue" will satisfy the requirements of Swift Water Operations Station C – "Non-Entry Rescue"
- Surface Water Operations Station K – "Termination" will satisfy the requirements of Swift Water Operations Station D – "Termination"

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STATION A – Site Survey, Search Parameters and Support Operations	Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 18 Mandatory Station: JPRs 18.2.2, 18.2.3		
Test Site	**Test Date**	**Candidate #**	**Check the Test Type** _____Initial _____Retest

Evaluator Note: Candidate should be provided with all required information, reference materials, and resources with the exception of candidate PPE. See evaluator handbook for additional information.

Directions: Given an incident scenario, designated mission, location, safety equipment and reference materials the candidate will assess moving water conditions, characteristics and features so that conditions are recorded, mechanisms of entrapment are considered, hazards are assessed, accountability is established, probable victim locations are identified, search patterns established, safety spotters are deployed, and findings are documented and communicated.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **All** tasks being performed correctly.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Selects, describes, dons, and doffs appropriate personal protective equipment: __ Personal Flotation Device (PFD) __ Two (2) Locking Carabiners __ Water Rescue Helmet __ One (1) Whistle __ Water Rescue Gloves __ One (1) Knife __ Dry suit w/ appropriate layering __ One (1) light source __ Water-appropriate boots/shoes		
2	Evaluates site conditions, identifies hazards, and impact of anticipated weather		
3	Utilizes reference materials, tactical worksheets, and maps		
4	Identifies site-specific hazards		
5	Identifies routes of access and egress		
6	Identifies the rescue sequence (Self, Shore-based, Boat, Direct Contact, Helicopter)		
7	Designates hot, warm, and cold zones		
8	Identifies probable victim locations and methods of entrapment		
9	Completes a risk-benefit analysis		
10	Defines search parameters based on probable victim locations and profile		
11	Communicates parameters and personal protective requirements to search team		
12	Identifies and implements passive and active search techniques		
13	Deploys appropriate safety spotters (upstream and downstream)		
14	Completes a tactical worksheet documenting the findings of the site survey		
15	All tasks were completed in a safe manner		
	Please indicate skill outcome	**PASS**	**FAIL**

Evaluator Comments: _____

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Evaluator Signature: _____ **Evaluator #**_____

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STATION B – Rope Systems		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 18 Mandatory Station: JPR 18.2.1	
Test Site	**Test Date**	**Candidate #**	**Check the Test Type** _____Initial _____Retest

Evaluator Note: Candidates will build the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Moveable Control Point system.

Directions: Given rope equipment, a load to be moved, and working as a member of a team the candidate will construct and operate rope systems particular to the swiftwater rescue needs of the AHJ so that the movement is controlled, the load is held in place when needed and operating methods do not stress the system.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **All** tasks being performed correctly.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Size-up of the water environment for access/egress locations, hazards, and conditions		
2	Determines incident need for rope system		
3	Select and don appropriate personal protective equipment		
4	Select an appropriate site with good visibility, with safe areas that the boat can be brought into, avoiding areas with strainers and potential entrapments		
5	Ensures upstream and downstream backup/spotters are in place before system operation		
6	Assign teams as warranted (far-shore and near-shore teams)		
7	Select anchors adequate for the expected loads		
8	Extend lines across the water to the other team while keeping the lines out of the water as best as possible		
9	Implement and establish communication methods		
10	Tensioned main line properly (No more than 4 personnel used on tensioning system)		
11	Attach the boat to the line properly without creating another hazard		
12	Complete a system safety check prior to loading		
13	Critical angles addressed if presented		
14	Prevent entanglements by keeping control lines separate		
15	Movement of the boat controlled		
16	Recover is victim successfully and brought to the designated point		
17	Completes all tasks in a safe manner		
	Please indicate skill outcome	**PASS**	**FAIL**

Evaluator Comments: _____

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Evaluator Signature: _____   **Evaluator #**_____

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STATION C – Non-Entry Rescue		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 18 Mandatory Station: JPR 18.2.4	
Test Site	**Test Date**	**Candidate #**	**Check the Test Type** _____Initial _____Retest

Evaluator Note: Candidates will utilize the PAFB Double Line Floating Tether to satisfy the "reach device" JPR from surface water rescue when swift and surface are being tested together.

Directions: Given an incident scenario, personal protective equipment, and a swiftwater rescue tool kit, the candidate will perform a non-entry rescue in the swiftwater environment so that the rescue is accomplished and adopted polices and safety procedures are followed.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **All** tasks being performed correctly.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Select and don appropriate personal protective equipment		
2	Identify hydrological features and best victim retrieval location		
3	Identify hazards related to the rescue scenario		
4	Construct and operate a double line floating tether with a partner		
5	Utilize the double line floating tether to conduct a shore-based rescue of a victim		
6	Deploy a water rescue throw bag to a victim successfully		
7	Demonstrate techniques for a "second chance" deployment (coiled throw)		
8	Maintain control of victim and guide the victim to safety without entering the water		
9	All tasks were completed in a safe manner		
	Please indicate skill outcome	**PASS**	**FAIL**

Evaluator Comments: _____

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Evaluator Signature: _____   **Evaluator #**_____

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STATION D – Termination		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 18 Mandatory Station: JPR 18.2.5	
Test Site	**Test Date**	**Candidate #**	**Check the Test Type** _____Initial _____Retest

Evaluator Note:

Directions: Given personal protective equipment, isolation barriers, and a tool kit, the candidate will terminate the incident so that rescuers and bystanders are accounted for and protected, the responsible party is provided appropriate documentation on potential or existing hazards and damages, documentation of the incident is completed, debriefing and post incident analysis and critique are considered, and command is terminated.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **All** tasks being performed correctly.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Ensures accountability of all personnel and bystanders		
2	Identifies procedures for on-scene gross decontamination		
3	Identifies procedures for cleaning and maintenance of personal protective equipment		
4	Transfers scene control to a responsible party by conducting a hand-off briefing		
5	Completes post-incident report		
6	Documents modifications, damages, equipment use, and injuries incurred during the incident		
7	Evaluates the need for critical incident stress management		
8	Schedules a post-incident analysis and critique		
9	Terminates command		
10	All tasks were completed in a safe manner		
	Please indicate skill outcome	**PASS**	**FAIL**

Evaluator Comments: _____

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Evaluator Signature: _____   **Evaluator #**_____