



PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY

SURFACE WATER TECHNICIAN 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 Surface Water Rescue Technician – Chapter 17 (2021 Edition)

Station A	Entry Rescue	17.3.1, 17.3.2, 17.3.3	Mandatory Station
Station B	Negotiate a Designated Surface Water Course	17.3.1	Mandatory Station
Station C	Entry Rescued from a platform	17.3.1, 17.3.4	Mandatory Station
Station D	Direct a Rescue Team	17.3.5	Mandatory Station
Station E	Victim packaging and removal	17.3.1, 17.3.2, 17.3.4	Mandatory Station
Station F	Capsized watercraft	17.3.4	Mandatory Station

PPE Requirements:

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Water Rescue Helmet

Water Rescue Gloves

Dry suit/ 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 Technician stations will satisfy the listed Swift Water Technician requirements, but the converse is **NOT** applicable:

- Surface Water Technician Station A – “Entry Rescue” will satisfy the requirements of Swift Water Rescue Technician Station A – “Entry Rescue”
- Surface Water Technician Station C – “Negotiate a Designated Swift Water Course” will satisfy the requirements of Swift Water Technician Station B – “Negotiate a Designated Surface Water Course”
- Surface Water Technician Station D – “Entry Rescue from a Platform” will satisfy the requirements of Swift Water Technician Station C – “Entry Rescue from a Platform”
- Surface Water Technician Station E – “Victim Packaging and Removal” will satisfy the requirements of Swift Water Technician Station E – “Victim Packaging and Removal”
- Surface Water Technician Station F – “Capsized Watercraft” will satisfy the requirements of Swift Water Technician Station F – “Capsized Watercraft”



PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY SURFACE WATER TECHNICIAN SKILL STATIONS

STATION A – Entry Rescue (POOL or OPEN WATER Site)		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 17 Mandatory Station: JPRs 17.3.1, 17.3.2, 17.3.3	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____Initial ____Retest

Evaluator Note: Tasks 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 can be accomplished in a pool or at the open water site. Should this station be completed in a pool, it should not less than 25 yards in length. Forward swimming strokes include the crawl (freestyle), breast, and side stroke. Candidates may wear swim goggles while completing this station.

Directions: Perform an entry rescue in the swift water environment, given an incident scenario, PPE, and swift water rescue tool kit, so that rescue is accomplished and adopted policies and safety procedures are followed.

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 (pool and moving water site)		
2	Selects and utilizes appropriate PPE.		
3	Ensures RIT is staged for deployment prior to water entry		
4	Demonstrates audible and visual distress signals		
5	Evaluate incident location for victim retrieval locations based on evaluation of hazards and shore-based rescue limitations.		
6	Selects appropriate floatation to assist the victim and to maintain separation. i.e., throw ring, swim board		
7	Completes a 50-yard aided swim utilizing a forward stroke to reach a simulated victim in under 4 minutes		
8	Demonstrates defensive tactics to escape from the grasp of a panicked or combative victim		
9	Establishes communication with the victim, and rescuer gains control of the victim		
10	Completes a 50-yard aided tow or push while maintaining control of the victim		
11	Victim signs and symptoms of aquatic medical emergencies are considered once victim is brought to shore		
12	Completes PAR checks		
13	All tasks were completed in a safe manner		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____

Evaluator # _____



PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY SURFACE WATER TECHNICIAN SKILL STATIONS

STATION B – Negotiate a Surface Water Course (OPEN WATER Site)		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 17 Mandatory Station: JPRs 17.3.1, 17.3.2, 17.3.3	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____Initial ____Retest

Evaluator Note: Items will be conducted at the moving water site by having candidates reach targets such as crossing the body of water or reaching eddies.

Directions: Swim a designated water course, given a course designated by the AHJ as demonstrating the capabilities necessary to operate in the anticipated rescue environment, 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.

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 (pool and moving water site)		
2	Selects and utilizes appropriate PPE.		
3	Ensures RIT is staged for deployment prior to water entry		
4	Demonstrates audible and visual distress signals		
5	Evaluate incident location for victim retrieval locations based on evaluation of hazards and shore-based rescue limitations.		
6	Swims the designated moving water course and reaches the objectives identified by the evaluator. (Can be accomplished in the pool or open water site) Will demonstrate: Defensive swim posture for traveling downstream (self-rescue) ____ Demonstrates setting proper ferrying angle for direction designated by evaluator ____ Offensive swim to and from a simulated eddy, demonstrating proper body positioning ____ Offensive swimming skills to negotiate a strainer ____		
7	Completes PAR checks		
8	All tasks were completed in a safe manner		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ **Evaluator #** _____



PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY

SURFACE WATER TECHNICIAN SKILL STATIONS

STATION C – Entry Rescue from a Platform (OPEN WATER Site)		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 18 Mandatory Station: JPRs 17.3.1, 17.3.4	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____ Initial ____ Retest

Evaluator Note: A rescue platform can include a vessel, boat, watercraft, or other waterborne transportation aid.

Directions: Perform an entry surface rescue from a rescue platform (such as a vessel, boat, watercraft, or other waterborne transportation aid) while negotiating a designated surface course, given a course that is representative of the bodies of surface water existing or anticipated within the geographical confines of the AHJ, water rescue PPE, and swim aids, so that the specific objective is reached, the victim is retrieved, movement is controlled, hazards are continually assessed, distress signals are demonstrated, and rapid intervention for the rescuer has been staged for deployment.

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	Selects and utilizes appropriate PPE.		
3	Ensures RIT is staged for deployment prior to water entry		
4	Demonstrates communication and distress signals		
5	Performs an entry from the rescue platform using appropriate techniques		
6	Stability of the watercraft is maintained while candidate enters the water		
7	Reaches and establishes communication with the victim		
8	Brings the victim back on board the watercraft utilizing a proper technique		
9	Completes PAR checks		
10	All tasks were completed in a safe manner		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ **Evaluator #** _____



PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY

SURFACE WATER TECHNICIAN SKILL STATIONS

STATION D – Direct a Rescue Team		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 17 Mandatory Station: JPR 17.3.5	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____Initial ____Retest

Directions: Direct a rescue team during operations, given incident checklists, maps, topographic surveys, and charts, so that teams are managed, personnel are supervised, hazards are assessed and identified, safety and health of the team are ensured, qualifications/abilities of rescuers are verified, pre-entry briefing is conducted, and debriefing is performed.

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

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Utilizes an identifiable incident management system		
2	Utilizes a personnel accountability system		
3	Size up of the water environment for access/egress locations, hazards, and conditions		
4	Identifies appropriate personal protective equipment		
5	Manages and supervises rescue team personnel		
6	Assigns personnel to tasks based on qualification and ability		
7	Provides a pre-entry briefing		
8	Conducts a debriefing		
9	Ensures the health and safety of the team		
10	All tasks were completed in a safe manner		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ **Evaluator #** _____



PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY

SURFACE WATER TECHNICIAN SKILL STATIONS

STATION E – Victim Packaging and Removal (POOL)		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 17 Mandatory Station: JPRs; 17.3.1, 17.3.2	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____ Initial ____ Retest

Evaluator Note:

Directions: Given water rescue equipment (i.e., swim aid, victim floatation aids, reach/extension devices) and PPE, perform a swimming water-surface rescue so that victim contact is maintained, the rescuer maintains control of the victim, the rescuer and victim reach safety at a predetermined area, and the medical conditions and treatment options are considered. Do you have any questions?

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	Selects and utilizes appropriate PPE.		
3	Ensures RIT is staged for deployment prior to water entry		
4	Selects equipment and techniques for treatment of aquatic medical emergencies Conscious Victim <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABC's • Stabilizes victim's c-spine manually while in water • Identifies and treats life threatening injuries • Positions and properly secures victim to a spinal immobilization device • Removes victim from water Unconscious Victim <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABC's • Stabilizes victim's c-spine manually while in water • Demonstrates turning of victim using the roll method • Identifies and treats life threatening injuries • Positions and properly secures victim to a spinal immobilization device • Removes victim from water 		
5	Completes PAR checks		
6	All tasks were completed in a safe manner		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____

Evaluator # _____



PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY

SURFACE WATER TECHNICIAN SKILL STATIONS

STATION F – Capsized Watercraft		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 17 Mandatory Station: JPRs 17.3.4	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type _____ Initial _____ Retest

Directions: Utilizing AHJ policies and procedures, deploy a watercraft, negotiate a designated water course in the watercraft so that the watercraft is launched and recovered without damage or injury, and demonstrate recovery techniques for a capsized watercraft. Do you have any questions?

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail will be determined by **ALL** tasks being correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Size up of the water environment for access/egress locations, hazards, and conditions		
2	Selects and utilizes appropriate PPE.		
3	Ensures RIT is staged for deployment prior to water entry		
4	Demonstrates communication and distress signals		
5	Demonstrates the broaching or flipping of a boat (whole process)		
6	Completes PAR checks		
7	All tasks were completed in a safe manner		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ **Evaluator #** _____