



PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY

TRENCH RESCUE 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 Trench Rescue Operations – Chapter 12 (2021 Edition)

Station A	Size Up: Non-Intersecting Trench (2 Evaluators)	Mandatory Station
Station B	Trench Shoring: Non-Intersecting Trench (2 Evaluators)	Mandatory Station
Station C	Victim Packaging & Removal (1 Evaluator)	Mandatory Station

All skills in the Trench Rescue Operation Level Skills Menu are Mandatory. All skills in the Trench Rescue Operations level MUST be passed with 100% of tasks being checked "YES." Any task checked "NO" in a skill station is a failure of that skill.

HOWEVER, skill B is broken into " SECTIONS. " Candidates who are unsuccessful at completing a section of skill B will only have to retest on the section that they failed.

Candidates who are unsuccessful at two or more sections in Skill Station B, "Trench Shoring: Non-Intersecting Trench," will have to retest the entire skill station.

AT NO TIME will a candidate, evaluator, participant, facility staff, etc., approach any edge where a fall of more than three (3) feet is possible without being attached to a fall protection system or a travel restraint system, unless they are attached to the main line and belay line or a twin tensioned system. Failure to follow these instructions will be an automatic failure of the station.

Minimum PPE for Trench Rescue Testing:

- Helmet/hardhat with chinstrap
- ANSI/ASTM eye protection
- Gloves
- Safety toed footwear



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STATION A – Size Up: Non-Intersecting Trench		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 12 Mandatory Station: JPRs 12.2.2	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____ Initial ____ Retest

Evaluator Note: Station scenario will be a non-intersecting trench rescue incident that has a designated competent person on-scene and one victim trapped by soil.

Directions: Given a trench rescue incident and PPE, the candidate will initiate scene control and isolation procedures, assess rescue conditions/mode, identify hazards, address energy sources, secure operating excavation and support equipment, and perform an initial size-up, so that all safety aspects are identified, and hazard control needs are communicated.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **11 of 11** tasks correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Establishes ICS		
2	Recognizes incident hazards; initiates isolation procedures		
3	Gathers relevant information from competent person/bystander(s)		
4	Identifies the number of victims, victim condition, and victim location(s)		
5	Identifies the type of collapse		
6	Identifies and controls the hazards and exposures that threaten the safety of the victim(s) and responders		
7	Identifies hazardous energy sources/utilities within and around the trench		
8	Establishes communications with the victim		
9	Initiates a visual search of the area inside the trench immediately visible from the trench end		
10	Performs a size-up and provides an initial report to incoming units		
11	Conducts an incident briefing; identifies and verbally communicates hazards		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ **Evaluator #** _____



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STATION B – Trench Shoring: Non-Intersecting		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 12 Mandatory Station: JPRs 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 12.2.3, 12.2.4, 12.2.7, 12.2.8	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type _____ Initial _____ Retest

Evaluator Note: Station scenario will require the candidates to execute a victim rescue from a non-intersecting trench. All skills in the Trench Rescue Operation Level Skills Menu are Mandatory. All skills in the Trench Rescue Operations level MUST be passed with 100% of tasks being checked "YES." Any task checked "NO" in a skill station is a failure of that skill.

HOWEVER, skill B is broken into " SECTIONS. " Candidates who are unsuccessful at completing a section of skill B will only have to retest on the section that they failed.

Candidates who are unsuccessful at two or more sections in Skill Station B, "Trench Shoring: Non-Intersecting Trench," will have to retest the entire skill station.

- *Candidates will work as a team of 8-12 rescuers. There will be three teams that will rotate through three assignments comprised from the four sections of the skill sheet. Assignment tasks are as follows:*

	<i>Rotation 1</i>	<i>Rotation 2</i>	<i>Rotation 3</i>
○ <i>Sections 1 & 4</i>	<i>Group 1</i>	<i>Group 2</i>	<i>Group 3</i>
○ <i>Section 2</i>	<i>Group 2</i>	<i>Group 3</i>	<i>Group 1</i>
○ <i>Section 3</i>	<i>Group 3</i>	<i>Group 1</i>	<i>Group 2</i>

Directions: Given trench rescue equipment, atmospheric monitoring equipment, PPE, two (2) straight ladders, ground pads, sheeting, struts, and panels, the candidates, working as a team, will manage identified hazards, develop and implement a shoring plan, and established required work/staging stations/areas, so that hazards are managed, the trench is secure for rescuer entry, the rescuer and victim are protected, and the rescuer is protected during disassembly.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **19 of 19** tasks correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
Section 1: Hazard Identification & Control			
1	Identifies, manages, and controls hazards; establishes work zones		
2	Performs atmospheric monitoring continuously around and within the trench; initiates proper ventilation within the trench		
3	Conducts an incident briefing; identifies and communicates hazards, shoring strategies, victim removal and path		
4	Places ground pads around the trench; marks trip, fall, and collapse hazards; initiates dewatering efforts		
5	Controls and moves spoil pile(s) as required		
6	Identifies, marks, verbally communicates soil, trip, and fall hazards		
7	Establishes required workstations and staging areas within the proper work zone(s)		
8	Dons required PPE and respiratory equipment (if needed) prior to entry		
9	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		

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Cont.' - Station B: Trench Shoring: Non-Intersecting

Section 2: Shoring Operations					
10	Places and secures trench panels within the trench; utilizes supplemental shoring as required				
11	Strut size, spacing, and placement sequence are appropriate for trench depth and width				
12	Rescuers stayed within the safe areas/zones during shoring operation				
13	Positions a minimum of two (2) ingress/egress points				
14	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner				
Section 3: Disassembly Operations					
15	Controls and monitors disassembly of support systems				
16	Rescuers operate within designated safe zones/positions during disassembly, cleaning and servicing of equipment				
17	Performs disassembly strategically; monitors hazards continuously				
18	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner				
Section 4: Incident Termination					
19	Terminates incident; conducts and documents on-scene debriefing/risk analysis; confirms PAR				
Please indicate skill outcome			<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">PASS</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">FAIL</td> </tr> </table>	PASS	FAIL
PASS	FAIL				

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ **Evaluator #** _____



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STATION C – Victim Packaging & Removal		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 12 Mandatory Station: JPRs 12.2.4, 12.2.5, 12.2.6	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____ Initial ____ Retest

Evaluator Note: Station scenario will require the candidates to execute a victim rescue from a non-intersecting trench. Candidates will NOT build the rope/retrieval systems for this evolution.

Directions: Given victim rescue and packaging equipment, PPE, a spinal immobilization device, and victim transfer device/litter, the candidates, working as a team, will manage the release of a single victim from soil entrapment, assess and package a victim for removal from a shored and secure trench, and communicate victim status with EMS, so that a victim is assessed, packaged, and safely removed from a non-intersecting trench.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **7 of 7** tasks correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Locates and assesses victim; communicates victim condition to EMS		
2	Removes soil carefully and cautiously from the victim		
3	Recognizes crush injuries related to compartment syndrome		
4	Packages victim in a transfer device/litter for removal from the trench		
5	Considers and verbally communicates victim injuries and entrapment mechanism(s) to EMS and extrication team		
6	Removes victim from the trench in a safe and controlled manner		
7	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ **Evaluator #** _____