



PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY

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

Station A	Trench Shoring: Intersecting (2-3 Evaluators)	Mandatory Station
Station B	Trench Shoring: Deep Trench (>8') (2 Evaluators)	Mandatory Station

All skills in the Trench Rescue Technician Level Skills Menu are Mandatory. All skills in the Trench Rescue Technician 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, skills A and B are broken into " SECTIONS. " Candidates who are unsuccessful at completing a section of skill A or B will only have to retest on the section that they failed.

Candidates who are unsuccessful at three or more sections in Skill Station A, "Trench Shoring: Intersecting," or two or more in Skill Station B, "Trench Shoring: Deep Trench (>8')," 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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TRENCH RESCUE TECHNICIAN SKILL STATIONS

STATION A – Trench Shoring: Intersecting & Lift		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 12 Mandatory Station: JPRs 12.3.1, 12.3.2, 12.3.5, 12.3.6, 12.3.7, 12.3.8, 12.3.9, 12.3.10, 12.3.11	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type _____ Initial _____ Retest

Evaluator Note: Station scenario will require the candidates to shore an intersecting trench and to lift an object to free and remove a victim from an intersecting trench <8'.

All skills in the Trench Rescue Technician Level Skills Menu are Mandatory. All skills in the Trench Rescue Technician 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 Station A is broken into " SECTIONS. " Candidates who are unsuccessful at completing a section of Skill Station A will only have to retest on the section that they failed. Candidates who are unsuccessful at three or more sections in Skill Station A will have to retest the entire skill station.

Directions: Given trench rescue equipment, atmospheric monitoring equipment, PPE, ladders, ground pads, supplemental sheeting, spot shoring, struts, lifting equipment, heavy equipment with an operator, trench panels, whaler system, a spinal immobilization device, and patient transfer device/litter, the candidates, working as a team, will manage identified hazards, develop and implement a shoring plan, support the release of a single victim from a component entrapment, will lift an object off of an entrapped victim, coordinate the use of heavy equipment as needed, release a single victim from trench component entrapment, remove a single victim from a shored and secure trench, and terminate the rescue incident, so that the operation is safe and effectively facilitated a victim rescue from an intersecting trench.

➤ *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, 2 & 6</i> | <i>Group 1</i> | <i>Group 2</i> | <i>Group 3</i> |
| ○ <i>Section 3</i> | <i>Group 2</i> | <i>Group 3</i> | <i>Group 1</i> |
| ○ <i>Section 4 & 5</i> | <i>Group 3</i> | <i>Group 1</i> | <i>Group 2</i> |

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by 32 of 32 tasks correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
Section 1: Rescue Planning			
1	Gathers relevant information from on-scene competent person		
2	Identifies the number of victims, victim condition, and victim location(s)		
3	Identifies mechanism of entrapment		
4	Ensures that shoring system is in place and secure prior to entry		
5	Ensures that atmospheric monitoring around and inside the trench area is on-going; ensures ventilation is in place		
6	Selects and utilizes PPE and respiratory protection as required		
7	Conducts briefing prior to initiating rescue plan; Briefs rescue team; implements a rescue plan		
Section 2: Size-up & Hazard Control			
8	Completes an incident size-up		
9	Conducts incident briefing; identifies hazards; communicates shoring plan		

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Cont.' - Trench Rescue Technician: Station A: Trench Shoring & Object Lift- Intersecting

10	Identifies and controls the hazards and exposures that threaten the safety of the victim(s) and responders; establishes works zones				
11	Positions ground pads around the trench; marks trip, fall, and collapse hazards				
12	Calculates "total L" force; controls and moves spoil piles as required				
13	Dons required PPE and respiratory equipment (if needed) prior to entry				
14	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner				
Section 3: Shoring Operations					
15	Establishes required workstations and staging areas				
16	Places and secures trench panels, struts, supplemental sheeting, spot shoring, and walers within the trench				
17	Strut and inside wale spacing is appropriate for trench depth				
18	Rescuers stayed within the safe areas/zones during shoring operation (one (1) per panel set)				
19	Provides a minimum of two (2) ingress/egress points				
20	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner				
Section 4: Lifting an Object					
21	Enters the trench, assesses the entrapped victim, and reports condition and mechanism of injuries to IC				
22	Selects and positions rescue equipment for lifting the object				
23	Prevents object from falling or shifting during lifting and release operation				
24	Lifts object enough to free the victim				
25	Provides resources to the rescue team to support victim removal				
26	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner				
Section 5: Victim Removal					
27	Locates victim; communicates victim location to IC				
28	Removes soil carefully and cautiously from the victim				
29	Briefs rescue team and implements rescue plan				
30	Provides resources to the rescue team to support victim removal				
31	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner				
Section 6: Termination					
32	Terminates incident; conducts debriefing; 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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TRENCH RESCUE TECHNICIAN SKILL STATIONS

STATION B – Deep Trench Shoring (>8')		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 12 Mandatory Station: JPRs 12.3.3, 12.3.4, 12.3.6, 12.3.7, 12.3.8, 12.3.11	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type _____ Initial _____ Retest

Evaluator Note: Station scenario will require the candidates to develop and implement a plan to shore a trench greater than eight (8) feet in depth.

All skills in the Trench Rescue Technician Level Skills Menu are Mandatory. All skills in the Trench Rescue Technician 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 Station B is broken into " SECTIONS. " Candidates who are unsuccessful at completing a section of Skill Station B will only have to retest on the section that they failed. Candidates who are unsuccessful at two or more in Skill Station B, "Trench Shoring: Deep Trench (>8')," will have to retest the entire skill station.

Directions: Given trench rescue equipment, atmospheric monitoring equipment, PPE, ladders, ground pads, supplemental sheeting, spot shoring, struts, walers, trench panels, a spinal immobilization device, and patient transfer device/litter, the candidates, working as a team, will manage identified hazards, develop and implement a shoring plan, release a single victim from soil entrapment, remove a single victim from a shored and secure trench, and terminate the rescue incident, so that a victim is assessed, packaged, and safely removed from a non-intersecting trench (>8').

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

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

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **16 of 16** tasks correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
Section 1: Hazard Control			
1	Completes incident size-up		
2	Conducts incident briefing; identifies hazards		
3	Identifies and controls the hazards and exposures that threaten the safety of the victim(s) and responders; establishes works zones		
4	Positions ground pads around the trench; marks trip, fall, and collapse hazards		
5	Calculates "total L" force; controls and moves spoil piles as required		
6	Performs atmospheric monitoring continuously around and within the trench		
7	Initiates proper ventilation within the trench		
8	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		
Section 2: Shoring Operations			
9	Establishes required workstations and staging areas		

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Cont.' - Trench Rescue Technician: Station B: Deep Trench Shoring (>8')

10	Places and secures trench panels, supplemental sheeting and or spot shoring within the trench, to support > 8' depth		
11	Strut and wale size, spacing, and positioning are appropriate for trench depth and width		
12	Rescuers stayed within the safe areas/zones during shoring operation (one (1) per panel set)		
13	Provides a minimum of two (2) ingress/egress points		
14	Shoring operation supports a victim rescue from a deep trench > 8' depth		
15	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		
Section 3: Victim Removal			
16	Locates victim; communicates victim location to IC		
17	Removes soil carefully and cautiously from the victim		
18	Briefs rescue team and implements rescue plan		
19	Provides resources to the rescue team to support victim removal		
20	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		
Section 4: Termination			
21	Terminates incident; conducts debriefing; confirms PAR		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ **Evaluator #** _____