State of Oregon
Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

NFPA Surface Water Rescue

Task Book

Task Book Assigned To:

Name _____ DPSST Fire Service # _____

Agency Name _____ Date Initiated _____

Signature of Agency Head or Training Officer _____ Date Completed _____

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training
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http://www.oregon.gov/DPSST/FC/FireCertFormFree.shtml

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NFPA Surface Water Rescue Signature Page

This signature page is a tool for your agency to document completed tasks. The signature page and documentation should be kept on file at your agency. Please **do not** submit the Task Book or signature page to Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. 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).

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

Initials	DPSST Fire #	NFPA Technical Rescuer Certification Level	Printed Name	Signature

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.

Before a job performance evaluation can be taken, all requisite knowledge and skills must be satisfied. In addition, all task book evaluations must be checked off by a qualified evaluator. When all prescribed requirements have been met, an application for Certification may 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 Surface 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.

HOW TO EVALUATE PERFORMANCE:

Each JPR has one to three corresponding boxes 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.

Example:

17.1.1 Size up a surface water incident, given an incident, so that the scope of the rescue is determined, the number of victims is identified, the last reported location of all the victims is established, witnesses and reporting parties are identified and interviewed, and search parameters are identified.	KMB 4-25-21		

TASK BOOK QUALIFICATION RECORD

FOR THE CERTIFICATION LEVEL OF

NFPA Surface Water 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. Prior to qualification at the awareness level in surface water rescue, the individual shall meet the requirements defined in Section 17.1.

17.1.1 Size up a surface water incident, given an incident, so that the scope of the rescue is determined, the number of victims is identified, the last reported location of all the victims is established, witnesses and reporting parties are identified and interviewed, and search parameters are identified. ☐ ☐ ☐

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Information gathering techniques and how that information is used in the size-up process. ☐

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to interview people, gather information, relay information, manage witnesses, and use information sources. ☐

17.1.2 Recognize incident hazards and initiate isolation procedures, given scene control barriers, personal protective equipment (PPE), requisite equipment, and available specialized resources, so that all hazards are identified; resource application fits the operational requirements; hazard isolation is considered; risks to rescuers, bystanders, and victims are minimized; and rescue time constraints are taken into account. ☐ ☐ ☐

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Resource capabilities and limitations; types and nature of incident hazards; equipment types and their use; isolation terminology, methods, equipment, and implementation; operational requirement concerns; common types of rescuer and victim risks; risk/benefit analysis methods and practices; hazard recognition, isolation methods, and terminology; methods for controlling access to the scene; and types of technical references. ☐

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to identify resource capabilities and limitations, identify incident hazards, assess potential hazards to rescuers and bystanders, place scene control barriers, and operate control and mitigation equipment.

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

17.1.4 Support an operations- or technician-level incident, given an incident, an assignment, an 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, and scene support requirements.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to apply operational protocols, function within an incident management system, follow and implement an incident action plan, and report the task progress status to a supervisor or incident command.

17.2 * Operations Level. The job performance requirements defined in Sections 17.1 and 17.2 shall be met prior to or during operations-level qualification in surface water rescue.

17.2.1 * Develop a site survey for an existing water hazard, given historical data, specific PPE for conducting site inspections, flood insurance rate maps, tide tables, and meteorological projections, so that life safety hazards are anticipated, risk/benefit analysis is included, site inspections are completed, water conditions are projected, site-specific hazards are identified, routes of access and egress are identified, boat ramps (put-in and take-out points) are identified, the method of entrapment is considered, and areas with a high probability for victim location are determined.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Requisite contents of a site survey; types, sources, and information provided by reference materials; hydrology and the influence of hydrology on rescues; types of hazards associated with water rescue practices scenarios, inspections practices, and considerations techniques; risk/benefit analysis; identification of hazard-specific PPE; factors influencing access and egress routes; behavioral patterns of victims; and environmental conditions that influence victim location.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to interpret reference materials, perform a scene assessment, evaluate site conditions, complete risk/benefit analysis, and select and use necessary PPE.

17.2.2 * Select water rescue PPE, given a water rescue assignment and assorted items of personal protective and life-support equipment, so that the rescuer is protected from temperature extremes and environmental hazards, correct buoyancy is maintained, AHJ protocols are complied with, swimming ability is maximized, routine and emergency communications are established between components of the team, self-rescue needs have been evaluated and provided for, and preoperation safety checks have been conducted.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Manufacturer's recommendations for PPE; standard operating procedures; basic signals and communications techniques; selection criteria of insulating garments; buoyancy characteristics; personal escape techniques; applications for and capabilities of personal escape equipment; hazard assessment; AHJ protocols for equipment positioning; classes of personal flotation devices; selection criteria for personal protective clothing, personal flotation devices, and water rescue helmets; personal escape techniques;

applications for and capabilities of personal escape equipment; and equipment and procedures for signaling distress.

(B) * Requisite Skills. The ability to use PPE according to the manufacturer's directions, don and doff equipment in an expedient manner, use preoperation checklists, select personal flotation devices, don and doff personal flotation devices, select water rescue helmets, don and doff water rescue helmets, select personal protective clothing and equipment, don and doff in-water insulating garments, proficiency in emergency escape procedures, proficiency in communicating distress signals, proficiency in emergency escape procedures, and proficiency in communications. ☐

17.2.3 * Define search parameters for a water rescue incident, given topographical maps of a search area; descriptions of all missing persons and incident history; and hydrologic data, including speed and direction of current or tides, so that areas with high probability of detection are differentiated from other areas, witnesses are interviewed, critical interview information is recorded, passive and active search tactics are implemented, personnel resources are considered and used, and search parameters are communicated. ☐ ☐ ☐

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Topographical map components, hydrologic factors and wave heights, methods to determine areas of high probability of detection, critical interview questions and practices, methods to identify track traps, ways to identify spotter areas and purposes for spotters, personnel available and their effect on parameter definition, the effect of search strategy defining parameters, communication methods, and reporting requirements. ☐

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to interpret and correlate reference and size-up information; evaluate site conditions; complete risk/benefit analysis; apply safety, communications, and operational protocols; specify PPE requirements; and determine rescue personnel requirements. ☐

17.2.4 Develop an action plan for a shore-based rescue of a single or multiple water-bound victim(s), given an operational plan and a water rescue tool kit, so that all information is factored, risk/benefit analysis is conducted, protocols are followed, hazards are identified and minimized, personnel and equipment resources will not be exceeded, assignments are defined, consideration is given to evaluating changing ☐ ☐ ☐

conditions, and the selected strategy and tactics fit the conditions.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Elements of an action plan; types of information provided by reference materials and size-up; hydrology; types of hazards associated with water rescue practices; risk/benefit analysis; identification of hazard-specific PPE; factors influencing access and egress routes; behavioral patterns of victims; environmental conditions that influence victim location; safety, communications, and operational protocols; and resource capability and availability.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to interpret and correlate reference and size-up information; evaluate site conditions; complete risk/benefit analysis; apply safety, communications, and operational protocols; specify PPE requirements; and determine rescue personnel requirements.

17.2.5 * Deploy a water rescue reach device to a water-bound victim, given required equipment and PPE so that the deployed equipment reaches the victim(s), the rescue equipment does not slip through the rescuer's hands, the victim is moved to the rescuer's shoreline, the victim is not pulled beneath the surface by rescuer efforts, the rescuer is not pulled into the water by the victim, and neither the rescuer nor the victim is tied to or entangled in the device.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Types and capabilities of PPE, effects of hydrodynamic forces on rescuers and victims, physiological effects of immersion, hydrology and characteristics of water, behaviors of water-bound victims, water rescue rope-handling techniques, incident-specific hazard identification, criteria for selecting victim retrieval locations based on the water environment and conditions, hazards and limitations of shore-based rescue, local policies and procedures for rescue team activation, and information on local water environments.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to select PPE specific to the water environment, don PPE, identify water hazards (i.e., upstream or downstream, current or tide), identify hazards directly related to the specific rescue, and demonstrate appropriate shore-based victim removal techniques.

17.2.6 * Deploy a water rescue rope to a water-bound victim, given a water rescue rope in a throw bag, a coiled water rescue rope 50 ft to 75 ft (15.24 m to 22.86 m) in length, and PPE, so that the deployed rope lands within reach of the victim, the rescue rope does not slip through the rescuer's hands, the victim is moved to the rescuer's shoreline, the victim is not pulled beneath the surface by rescuer efforts, the rescuer is not pulled into the water by the victim, and neither the rescuer nor the victim is tied to or entangled in the throw line.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Types and capabilities of PPE, effects of hydrodynamic forces on rescuers and victims, hydrology and characteristics of water, behaviors of water-bound victims, water rescue rope-handling techniques, incident-specific hazard identification, criteria for selecting victim retrieval locations based on the water environment and conditions, hazards and limitations of shore-based rescue, local policies and procedures for rescue team activation, and information on local water environments.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to deploy both a water rescue rope bag and a coiled water rescue rope, select PPE specific to the water environment, don PPE, identify water hazards (e.g., upstream or downstream, current or tide), identify hazards directly related to the specific rescue, and demonstrate appropriate shore-based victim removal techniques.

17.2.7 * Develop and implement an action plan for the use of watercraft to support the rescue of a single or multiple water-bound victims, given watercraft, operator(s), and policies and procedures used by the AHJ, so that watercraft predeployment checks are completed; watercraft launch or recovery is achieved; rescuers are deployed and recovered; both onboard and rescue operations conform with watercraft operational protocols and capabilities; communications are clear and concise; and the candidate is familiar with watercraft nomenclature, operational protocols, design limitations, and launch/recovery site issues.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Entry/exit procedures, communications techniques, boat operation techniques, design limitations, climactic conditions, tides, and currents.

(B) Requisite Skills. Implement access and egress procedures and communications with watercraft crew, use emergency/safety equipment, identify hazards, and operate within the rescue environment.

17.2.8 * Define procedures to provide support for helicopter water rescue operations within the area of responsibility for the AHJ, given a helicopter service, operational protocols, helicopter capabilities and limitations, water rescue procedures, and risk factors influencing helicopter operations, so that air-to-ground communication is established and maintained, applications are within the capabilities and skill levels of the helicopter service, the applications facilitate victim extraction from water hazards that are representative of the bodies of water existing or anticipated within the geographic confines of the AHJ, air crew and ground personnel safety are not compromised, landing zones are designated and secured, and fire suppression resources are available at the landing zone.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Local aircraft capabilities and limitations, landing zone requirements, hazards to aircraft, local protocols, procedures for operating around aircraft, dynamics of rescue options, crash survival principles, PPE limitations and selection criteria, ancillary helicopter rescue equipment, and helicopter surf rescue procedures.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to determine applicability of air operations, establish and control landing zones, assess fire protection needs, communicate with air crews, identify hazards, rig aircraft for anticipated rescue procedures, apply crash survival procedures, select and use PPE, and work with air crews to rescue a victim from the water.

17.2.9 * Implement procedures for performing watercraft-based rescue of an incapacitated, water-bound victim, as a member of a team, given a water hazard that is representative of the anticipated rescue environment watercraft that is available to the team (if applicable), designated victim packaging and management equipment, and water rescue PPE, so that the control and stability of the watercraft is maintained, risks to the victim and rescuers are minimized, and the victim is removed from the hazard.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Limitations and uses of available watercraft, local environmental access and egress procedures, parbuckling (rollup) techniques, dynamics of moving water and its effects on watercraft handling, conditional requirements for PPE, and the effects of extrication on watercraft handling and stability.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to move about in a designated watercraft in conditions representative of the anticipated rescue environment while managing the movement of a water-bound victim using techniques identified by the AHJ. ☐

17.2.10 Demonstrate fundamental survival swimming and self-rescue skills, given safety equipment, props, and a controlled setting representative of the anticipated rescue environment, so that the risk of injury is minimized, flotation is maintained, available PPE is utilized, and egress is accomplished. ☐ ☐ ☐

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Basic forward stroke swimming theory (surface skills). ☐

(B) Requisite Skills. Basic swimming skills, including the ability to swim and float in different water conditions with and without flotation aids or swimming aids as required and apply water survival skills; don and doff PPE; select and use PPE, flotation aids, and swim aids; use communications systems; and evaluate water conditions to identify entry points and hazards. ☐

17.2.11 Identify procedures for operation of rope systems particular to the water rescue needs of the AHJ, given rescue personnel, an established rope system, 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. Ways to determine incident needs as related to the operation of rope systems, 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, assignment considerations, common and critical operational commands, common rope system problems and ways to minimize or manage them, and ways 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. ☐

17.2.12 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, correct buoyancy control is maintained, and emergency procedures are demonstrated.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Support procedures, including search patterns, operation support equipment, and communications issues.

(B) Requisite Skills. Basic support skills, including the ability to act as spotters and tend to water rescuers.

17.2.13 * Terminate an incident, given PPE specific to the incident, isolation barriers, and a tool kit, so that rescuers and bystanders are protected and accounted for during termination operations; the party responsible is notified of any modifications 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) Requisite Knowledge. PPE characteristics, hazard and risk identification, isolation techniques, statutory requirements identifying responsible parties, accountability system use, reporting methods, and postincident analysis techniques.

(B) Requisite Skills. Select and use task and hazard-specific PPE; decontaminate PPE; use barrier protection techniques, collect data, follow record-keeping/reporting protocols, and conduct postincident analysis activities.

17.3 * Technician Level. The job performance requirements defined in Sections 17.2 and 17.3 shall be met prior to or during technician-level qualification in surface water rescue.

17.3.1 * 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.

(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 a representative body of water. ☐

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to swim and float over the required distances and for the necessary duration as outlined in the watermanship test found in Annex M with and without flotation aids or swim aids, apply water survival skills, don and doff PPE, select and use swim aids, use communications systems, and evaluate water conditions to identify entry points and hazards. ☐

17.3.2 Perform a swimming surface water rescue, given a simulated victim, water rescue PPE, conditions representative of the anticipated rescue environment, swim aids as required, flotation aids for victims, and reach/extension devices, so that victim contact is maintained, the rescuer maintains control of the victim, the rescuer and the victim reach safety at a predetermined area, and medical conditions and treatment options are considered. ☐ ☐ ☐

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Hydrology and specific hazards anticipated for a representative water rescue environment (shoreline, in-water, and climatic); victim behavior patterns; emergency countermeasures for combative victims; selection criteria for water rescue PPE, swim aids, and flotation aids for anticipated water conditions; victim abilities and hazards; swimming techniques for representative bodies of water; and signs, symptoms, and treatment of aquatic medical emergencies. ☐

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to swim and float in different water conditions with and without flotation aids or swim aids; apply water survival skills; manage combative water-bound victims; don and doff PPE; select and use PPE, flotation aids, and swim aids; utilize communications systems; select equipment and techniques for treatment of aquatic medical emergencies; and evaluate water conditions to identify entry points and hazards. ☐

17.3.3 Demonstrate defensive tactics in the water rescue environment, given a water-bound victim in a stressed or panicked situation, so that the rescuer can maintain separation from the victim to create or maintain personal safety and can perform self-defense techniques to prevent rescuer submersion if direct contact is made between a panicked victim and the rescuer.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Basic emergency procedures for applicable environments and situations with stressed or panicked victims at water rescues.

(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to release oneself effectively from the grasp of a panicked victim, including blocks, releases, and escapes.

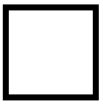
17.3.4 Perform an entry surface rescue from a rescue platform (such as a vessel, boat, watercraft, or other waterborne transportation aid) while negotiating a designated surface course, given a course that is representative of the bodies of surface water existing or anticipated within the geographical 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.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Watercraft operational characteristics, hydrology features, water entry and exit techniques, and water-bound victim management.

(B) Requisite Skills. Watercraft operation, watercraft stability and maneuvering techniques, rescuer entry and egress methods, capsized vessel upset recovery techniques, waterborne victim packaging and management techniques, and hand signals.

17.3.5 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 is ensured, qualifications/abilities of rescuers are verified, pre-entry briefing is conducted, and debriefing is performed.

(A) Requisite Knowledge. Supervisory practices, emergency procedures, communications procedures, local protocols, and safety checks, and personnel accountability techniques.



(B) Requisite Skills. The ability to implement emergency procedures, communications procedures, incident management, personnel accountability, and resource management.