



Swiftwater Rescue II

Course Objectives

Swiftwater Rescue II is Dive Rescue International's advanced three day (24 hour) swiftwater training program. All students are required to have basic swiftwater rescue skills including: excellent swimming skills, operational experience using high-lines and a working knowledge of knots, rigging and mechanical advantage systems. All students should be prepared for multiple challenging in-water scenarios. Specific and detailed information will be provided regarding searching by using coordinated land and water-based teams.

This program is presented in the classroom and open-water to allow students to become familiar with different field scenarios and engage in team-building exercises. Successful completion of this program is measured in class participation and a comprehensive test.

Key training topics and the associated objectives include:

CHARACTERISTICS OF MOVING WATER

Identify examples where fast moving water is moving in a linear direction (swiftwater)

Define the four river references as they relate to facing downstream

Describe the two types of flow associated with water moving through a river bed and the four characteristics of water dynamics

THE HUMAN BODY IN WATER

Identify the factors effecting the buoyancy and descent of the human body in swiftwater including current, body type, and clothing

Explain why the "sack of potatoes" myth does not work in tracking a victim's pathway in swiftwater

Describe the factors that effect the physiology of body re-float

Identify victim considerations in reference to body re-float

Explain why some bodies will not re-float

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Identify swiftwater hazards and their associated risks

Define the Risk/Benefit Analysis of an operation

List the following: personal protective equipment (PPE) for shore-based and in-water rescuers; swiftwater team equipment; and search equipment

Discuss personal protective equipment for both shore-based and in-water rescuers

SCENE EVALUATION

Identify the factors that are assessed in a scene evaluation as well as other considerations that may come up as information on the scene becomes available

Describe factors that are used in the process of determining the last-seen point (LSP)

Define reference point and reference object

Explain witness interview procedures and the establishment of a victim profile

Identify sketch components in a scene sketch and explain why documentation is important



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ESTABLISHING OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Define a rescue vs. recovery operation

Describe initial search objectives and ongoing search objectives

SEARCH TACTICS

Discuss what circumstances can vary that will change search tactics

Describe the considerations team leaders must make before fielding search teams

Explain perceptions and expectations when searching for a victim

Identify the steps taken to care for a victim's body once it is located

Describe considerations taken for family and media once a body is found

KNOTS AND RIGGINGS

Identify the different anchor/riggings systems

List and describe the different types of knots and in what scenarios they would be used

Explain the tensioning of high line systems

PREREQUISITES

All students must be a current member of a public safety agency, at least 18 years of age and must show proof of Swiftwater Rescue 1 certification.

This program is designed for personnel who are physically fit. Participants are encouraged to participate after successfully completing the IADRS Watermanship Test or testing to a fitness level of 13 MET (Metabolic Equivalent) or greater. Participants with aerobic fitness questions or concerns should consult their physician prior to in-water training. Participants who have poor aerobic fitness may attend this program as surface support personnel with the approval of the instructor.

BE SURE TO BRING

All students should bring: clothing appropriate for weather conditions, adequate footwear, watersports helmet, and U.S. Coast Guard approved P.F.D. (Type III or V) with whistle and cutting tool, and pen and paper. In-water participants must provide their own wetsuit or swiftwater dry suit, water rescue gloves, work gloves and fins.



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Course Outline

DAY 1

8:00-9:00	Program Introduction / Overview Completion of class paperwork
9:00-12:00	Program Presentation Written Exam
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:30	Team Building Exercises
2:30-5:00	Skill Completion and Review Knots and Throwbag Competition Rigging 4-Line Boat Rigging Highline Rigging Techniques

DAY 2

8:00-8:30	Introduction to Objectives
8:30-12:00	Field Exercises River Reading - Areas of Probability Skill Verification - Float, Swim, & Swiftwater Rescue Board Exercises Contact Rescues Boat Operations Practice Lunch on the go
12:00-5:00	Field Exercises Search / Rescue Exercises

DAY 3

8:00-5:00	Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Scenarios Advanced Scenarios Lunch on the go Advanced Scenarios (continued) Final Critique Closing and Certificates
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