



Standard Guide for Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Technician Basic¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes the areas of expertise that Search and Rescue (SAR) Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Technician Basic (SWFT-Basic) personnel shall demonstrate in order to perform in, on, or around a Swiftwater environment.

1.1.1 Specifically, this guide defines the recommended training required to prepare SWFT-Basic personnel, or equivalent, for responding to or conducting shore-based Swiftwater and flood rescue operations.

1.1.2 This guide establishes the general areas of expertise that SWFT-Basic personnel shall demonstrate. This guide does not cover specialized types of Swiftwater/flood SAR, such as helicopter and boat-based rescues.

1.1.3 This guide also establishes the minimum training requirements.

1.2 This is the entry-level position for Swiftwater/flood responders.

1.3 SWFT-Basic personnel shall be able to recognize, reduce, eliminate, or mitigate, within the scope of their training, the hazards and risks in a Swiftwater or flood situation or environment and be able to request appropriate additional resources.

1.4 This guide identifies types of rescues, tactics, and systems that are typically used by SWFT-Basic personnel, such as shore-based rescues using talking, reaching, throwing, and wading methods.

1.5 SWFT-Basic personnel who have met the minimum qualifications and experience within this guide are capable of performing shore-based rescues and assisting with in-water rescues from the shore under qualified supervision.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F32 on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F32.03 on Personnel, Training and Education.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

F1422 Guide for Using the Incident Command System Framework in Managing Search and Rescue Operations
F1768 Guide for Using Whistle Signals During Rope Rescue Operations
F2752 Guide for Training for Level I Rope Rescue (R1) Rescuer Endorsement

2.2 Other Documents:

DRAFT Land Search and Rescue Addendum to the National Search and Rescue Supplement to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual, Version 1.0, November 2011³

National Response Framework (NRF), FEMA, January 2013⁴

Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR), Subtitle B, Chapter Xvii, 1910.120(Q)(6)(i) "First responder awareness training"

3. Terminology

3.1 Acronyms:

- 3.1.1 AHJ—Authority Having Jurisdiction
- 3.1.2 CPR—Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- 3.1.3 FEMA—Federal Emergency Management Agency
- 3.1.4 HazMat—Hazardous Materials
- 3.1.5 HELP—Heat Escape Lessening Posture/Position
- 3.1.6 ICS—Incident Command System
- 3.1.7 LKP—Last Known Point
- 3.1.8 NIMS—National Incident Management System
- 3.1.9 NRF—National Response Framework
- 3.1.10 PLS—Point Last Seen
- 3.1.11 PPE—Personal Protective Equipment
- 3.1.12 PTB—Position Task Book
- 3.1.13 RBB—Rigid Buoyant Boats
- 3.1.14 RHIB—Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat
- 3.1.15 SAR—Search and Rescue
- 3.1.16 SWFT-Basic—Swiftwater/Flood Technician-Basic

³ [http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/Revision%205-EHE%20Source%20List%20\(01-12\).pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/Revision%205-EHE%20Source%20List%20(01-12).pdf).

⁴ <http://www.fema.gov/national-response-framework>