



INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL  
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## Swiftwater subcharter

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<http://technicalrescue.org/documents>

# Swiftwater Rescue Principles

**Instructor Responsibility:** Instructors and evaluators are required to create safe conditions for participants in a course.

**Independent Assessment Model:** Only assessments performed with the independent assessment model may be performed.

**Evaluator Availability:** If an Evaluator is available in a region, they shall be used as an assessor instead of an Instructor for any level of assessment.

**Assessment Load:** Assessors shall not assess more than 8 candidates per day.

**Failure to Complete Objective:** Failure to complete a learning objective shall be recorded as a major discrepancy.

**Inhibition of Human Error:** Swiftwater rescue systems must have technical or procedural measures in place to inhibit human error or environmental influences when hazards need to be mitigated.

**Safety Standards Compliance:** Swiftwater rescue systems must meet the guidance in the Swiftwater Rescue Safety & Standards document.

**Patient Safety:** Steps must be taken to prevent the potential for further injuries.

# Swiftwater Rescue Discrepancies

## SR1 Task Completeness

Tasks must be completed by the candidate. Tasks will be explained before commencement, and candidates are allowed to ask clarifying questions. Tasks may be halted if an unsafe condition develops, and the assessor will provide a reason for the decision.

**Major:** Failure to complete a task, either due to the candidate giving up or the assessor halting it.

**Minor:** No minor discrepancy for this issue.

## SR2 Reasonable Time

Tasks should be performed with continual progress. Candidates are expected to show familiarity and refrain from excessive self-correcting. If a candidate takes excessively longer than their peers, the evaluator may ask how much more time is needed.

**Major:** Excessive time taken over the entire assessment from two or more minor time discrepancies.

**Minor:** Excessive time taken for an individual task, such as self-correcting or taking longer than peers.

## SR3 Appropriate PPE Selection and Use

Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn, such as helmets, properly fitted PFD, and appropriate thermal protection for water rescue operations. Consideration should be made for decontamination and personal hygiene.

**Major:** Inappropriate PPE or failure to use it correctly, such as not wearing a helmet when exposed to the hazard.

**Minor:** Minor issues like an incorrectly adjusted helmet or a twist in a harness leg loop.

## SR4 Appropriate Points of Attachment

Candidates must maintain appropriate attachment points to the rope system during swiftwater tasks which must be releasable.

**Major:** Inappropriate use of points of attachment, which place the rescuer or casualties at risk either from a failure to maintain a clean line system or appropriate restraint to ensure safety.

**Minor:** No minor discrepancy for this issue.

## SR5 Edge Restraint and Fall Prevention

Candidates must not be exposed to a fall hazard without appropriate edge restraint or fall prevention.

**Major:** Failure to use an edge restraint system, such as allowing a candidate to slip past an edge without fall protection.

**Minor:** Improper edge restraint that does not result in serious injury.

### **SR6 Inappropriate Equipment Selection and Setup**

Candidates must select and set up equipment according to best practices. Equipment checks must be done to ensure security.

**Major:** Inappropriate equipment selection that could compromise safety, such as incompatible ropes or anchor systems.

**Minor:** Incorrect equipment setup that doesn't compromise safety, such as forgetting to bring a piece of gear during the task.

### **SR7 Inappropriate Equipment Use**

Equipment must be used according to industry best practices and manufacturer instructions.

**Major:** Using equipment in a way that could cause failure, such as an unlocked connector which can compromise the system or use a device beyond its rated capacity.

**Minor:** Inappropriate equipment use that does not result in immediate danger, like cross-loaded or unlocked carabiners that do not result in system compromise.

### **SR8 Poor Technique**

Candidates must ensure that their techniques do not create safety risks.

**Major:** Unsafe techniques, such as uncontrolled descents or incorrectly tied knots that compromise system integrity.

**Minor:** Minor issues, like tangled ropes that need to be removed before continuing.

### **SR9 Inappropriate Conduct**

Candidates should perform tasks without external assistance, maintaining professionalism.

**Major:** Inappropriate conduct, such as cheating, not following assessor instructions, or disruptive behavior.

**Minor:** No minor discrepancy for conduct issues.

### **SR10 spotter and safety**

**Major:** Fails to consider spotter or safety in places (Upstream and downstream)

**Minor:** Incomplete or intermittent spotting, a minor discrepancy might involve a brief lapse in upstream or downstream safety coverage, or a deviation from protocol that does not immediately compromise safety.

### **SR11 Tensioned ropes across current are appropriate angle**

**Major:** Ropes are positioned at an angle that significantly increases risk to rescuer or victim, or cannot be released.

**Minor:** Slight deviations from ideal angle that don't immediately compromise safety.

### **SR12 Attempt to stand up in fast moving current/swept away**

**Major:** Attempting to stand up in fast moving water or being swept away poses significant risk to personal safety potentially leading to foot entrapment can be life threatening

**Minor:** Near-miss situations without major consequences

# **Instructor Guidance for Swiftwater Rescue**

ITRA Swiftwater Rescue Instructors are recognized to provide Swiftwater Rescue courses and assessments. Instructors must demonstrate competency in both teaching and practical skills as outlined in the Swiftwater Rescue syllabus for Levels 1, 2, Specialist, Power Boat and In Water Vehicle.

## **Instructor Application Process**

### ***Candidate Eligibility***

To apply, candidates must:

Hold a current ITRA Professional membership.

Hold a current Level 2 ITRA Swiftwater Rescue Qualification.

Submit evidence of continued professional development and operational experience.

Have a current CPR qualification.

### ***Application Review***

Applications are reviewed by the Swiftwater Rescue Working Group. If an application is denied, the candidate may appeal the decision.

### ***Maintaining Instructor Qualification***

Instructors must:

Hold a current ITRA SW Level 2 qualification.

Have taught an ITRA SW course or attended an ITRA workshop within the last two years.

Maintain a current valid CPR certification.

Attend at least one online ITRA Swiftwater Rescue instructor meeting per year.

## **Evaluator Guidance for Swiftwater Rescue**

ITRA Swiftwater Rescue Evaluators are highly skilled individuals capable of conducting evaluations for instructor candidates and ensuring that Swiftwater Rescue courses adhere to the ITRA syllabus. Evaluators must have a deep understanding of all Swiftwater Rescue principles and discrepancies. Evaluators must maintain Level 2 and Swiftwater Specialist qualification.

This adaptation keeps the core principles of the original document intact while focusing on the unique aspects of Swiftwater Rescue.