This program is designed to provide specialty certification and training for Volunteer Firefighters, Volunteer Search & Rescue Technicians, Volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians and others as the Board may determine.

Technical Search & Rescue Personnel who have received training prior to passage of this program may, upon providing proof to a Board member and receiving approval, apply the training hours for certification. Any training hours earned prior to January 1, 2015 must be approved by the Board.

Reference Materials

The jurisdictional entity in which the rescue personnel serves must have access to the most current editions of the following reference materials:

NFPA

NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications
NFPA 1670: Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents

IFSTA

Fire Service Search and Rescue
Principles of Vehicle Extrication
Technical Rescue for Structural Collapse, North American Version

Other

Jurisdictionally developed codes and protocols

Minimum Requirements

The Certification Program offers two (2) levels of Rope Rescue Technician Certification:

Rope Rescue Level I

Applicants must:

1. meet all qualifications for, **and hold or apply concurrently for** the SFFMA Rescue Apprentice
   AND
2. have completed or hold one of the following:
   a. Rope Rescue Level I as defined by NFPA 1006;
   b. TEEX Rope Rescue I; or
   c. SFFMA Rope Rescue Level I coursework

Rope Rescue Level II

Applicant must:

1. meet all qualifications for, **and hold or apply concurrently for** the following SFFMA certificates:
   a. Rescue Apprentice; AND
   b. Rope Rescue Level I
   AND
2. have completed or hold one of the following:
   a) Rope Rescue Level II as defined by NFPA 1006;
   b) TEEX Rope Rescue II; or
   c) SFFMA Rope Rescue Level II coursework

Curriculum for Rope Rescue Level I

RR-01.01 Trainee shall direct a team in the operation of a simple rope mechanical advantage system in a high-angle raising operation, given rescue personnel, an established rope rescue system incorporating a simple rope mechanical advantage system, a specified minimum travel distance for the load, a load to be moved, and an anchor system, so that the movement is controlled, a reset is accomplished, the load can be held in place when needed, operating methods do not stress the system to the point of failure, commands are used to direct the operation, and potential problems are identified, communicated, and managed.
NFPA 1006 6.1.1

RR-01.02 Trainee shall direct a lowering operation in a high-angle environment, given rescue personnel, an established lowering system, a specified minimum travel distance for the load, and a load to be moved, so that the movement is controlled, the load can be held in place when needed, operating methods do not stress the system to the point of failure, rope commands are used to direct the operation, and potential problems are identified, communicated, and managed, held in place when needed, operating methods do not stress the system to the point of failure, rope commands are used to direct the operation, and potential problems are identified, communicated, and managed.
NFPA 1006 6.1.2

RR-01.03 Trainee shall construct a multiple-point anchor system, given life safety rope and other auxiliary rope rescue equipment, so that the chosen anchor system fits the incident needs, the system strength meets or exceeds the expected load and does not interfere with rescue operations, equipment is visually inspected prior to being put in service, the nearest anchor point that will support the load is chosen, the anchor system is system safety checked prior to being placed into service, the integrity of the system is maintained throughout the operation, and weight will be distributed between more than one anchor point.
NFPA 1006 6.1.3

RR-01.04 Trainee shall construct a compound rope mechanical advantage system, given a load, an anchor system, life safety rope, carabiners, pulleys, rope grab devices, and rope rescue equipment, so that the system constructed accommodates the load and reduces the force required to lift the load, operational interference is factored and minimized, the system is efficient, a system safety check is completed, and the system is connected to an anchor system and the load.
NFPA 1006 6.1.4

RR-01.05 Trainee shall construct a fixed rope system, given an anchor system, a life safety rope, and rope rescue equipment, so that the system constructed can accommodate the load, is efficient, and is connected to an anchor system and the load, and a system safety check is performed and the results meet the incident requirements for descending or ascending operations.
NFPA 1006 6.1.5

RR-01.06 Trainee shall direct the operation of a compound rope mechanical advantage system in a high-angle environment, given a rope rescue system incorporating a compound rope mechanical advantage system and a load to be moved, and a specified minimum travel distance for the load, so that a system safety check is performed; a reset is accomplished, and the movement is controlled; the load can be held in place when needed; operating methods do not stress the system to the point of failure; operational commands are clearly communicated; and potential problems are identified, communicated, and managed.
NFPA 1006 6.1.6

RR-01.07 Trainee shall ascend a fixed rope in a high-angle environment, given an anchored fixed rope system, a specified minimum distance for the rescuer, a system to allow ascent of a fixed rope, a structure, a belay system, a life safety harness worn by the person ascending, and personal protective equipment, so that the person ascending is secured to the fixed rope in a manner that will not allow him or her to fall; the person ascending is attached to the rope by means of an ascent control device(s) with at least two points of contact; injury to the person ascending is minimized; the person ascending can stop at any point on the fixed rope and rest suspended by his or her harness; the system will not be stressed to the point of failure; the person ascending can convert his or her ascending system to a descending system; obstacles are negotiated; the system is suitable for the site; and the objective is reached.

NFPA 1006 6.1.7

RR-01.08 Trainee shall descend a fixed rope in a high-angle environment, given an anchored fixed-rope system, a specified minimum travel distance for the rescuer, a system to allow descent of a fixed rope, a belay system, a life safety harness worn by the person descending, and personal protective equipment, so that the person descending is attached to the fixed rope in a manner that will not allow him or her to fall; the person descending is attached to the rope by means of a descent control device; the speed of descent is controlled; injury to the person descending is minimized; the person descending can stop at any point on the fixed rope and rest suspended by his or her harness; the system will not be stressed to the point of failure; the system is suitable for the site; and the objective is reached.

NFPA 1006 6.1.8

Curriculum for Rope Rescue Level II

RR-02.01 Trainee shall complete an assignment while suspended from a rope rescue system in a high-angle environment, given a rope rescue system, an assignment, life safety harnesses, litters, bridles, and specialized equipment necessary for the environment, so that risks to victims and rescuers are minimized; the means of attachment to the rope rescue system is secure; selected specialized equipment facilitates efficient rescuer movement; and specialized equipment does not unduly increase risks to rescuers or victims.

NFPA 1006 6.2.1

RR-02.02 Trainee shall manage the movement of the victim as the rescuer in a high-angle environment, given a rope rescue system, a specified minimum travel distance for the victim, victim transfer devices, and specialized equipment necessary for the environment, so that risks to victims and rescuers are minimized; undesirable victim movement within the transfer device is minimized; the means of attachment to the rope rescue system is maintained; the victim is removed from the hazard; selected specialized equipment facilitates efficient victim movement; and the victim can be transported to the local EMS provider.

NFPA 1006 6.2.2

RR-02.03 Trainee shall function as a litter tender in a high-angle lowering or hauling operation, given a rope rescue system, a specified minimum travel distance for the litter tender, life safety harnesses, litters, bridles, and specialized equipment necessary for the environment, so that risks to victims and rescuers are minimized; the means of attachment to the rope rescue system is secure; and the terrain is negotiated while minimizing risks to equipment or persons.

NFPA 1006 6.2.3

RR-02.04 Trainee shall direct a team in the removal of a victim suspended from rope or webbing in a high-angle environment, given a victim suspended by a harness attached to anchored rope or webbing, devices for removal of the victim from the rope or webbing, and a means of removal of the victim to

the ground or other safe area, so that risks to victims and rescuers are minimized, injury to the victim is minimized, the means of attachment to the rope rescue system is maintained, the victim is removed from the rope or webbing, and the victim is brought to a safe area for transfer to EMS.
NFPA 1006 6.2.4

RR-02.05 Trainee shall direct a team in the construction of a system intended to move a suspended rescue load along a horizontal path to avoid an obstacle, given rescue personnel, life safety rope, rope rescue equipment, and a suitable anchor capable of supporting the load, so that personnel assignments are made and clearly communicated; the system constructed can accommodate the load; tension applied within the system will not exceed the rated capacity of any of its components' parts; a system safety check is performed; movement on the load is efficient; and loads can be held in place or moved with minimal effort over the required distance.
NFPA 1006 6.2.5

RR-02.06 Trainee shall direct a team in the operation of a rope system to move a suspended rescue load along a horizontal path, given rescue personnel, an established system, a target for the load, a load to be moved, and personal protective equipment, so that the movement is controlled; the load is held in place when needed; operating methods do not stress the system to the point of failure; personnel assignments are made; tasks are communicated; and potential problems are identified, communicated and managed.
NFPA 1006 6.2.6

RR-02.07 Trainee shall access a victim in a high-angle environment using techniques that require rescuers to climb up or down natural or manmade structures given a belay, a belay system, or other mechanisms, so that the risks from a fall are minimized or eliminated; the patient is accessed; and the objective is achieved.
NFPA 1006 6.2.7

RR-02.08 Trainee shall isolate and manage potentially harmful energy sources found in erected structures, including power systems and construction materials, given personal protective equipment, so that all hazards are identified, systems are managed, beneficial system use is evaluated, and hazards to rescue personnel and victims are minimized.
NFPA 1006 6.2.8