



Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

Revised April 2010

Course Title: Ice Rescue and Emergency Response (PA Fish and Boat Commission)

SFA Course Code: IRER (old FCIR)

Length of Course: 16 Hours

Lecture/Lab Breakdown: 8/8

Prerequisites: WRER (Water Rescue & Emergency Response) *or* Water Rescue & Emergency Response – Phase I (FCWR) *and* PA Basic Boating Certificate or equivalent

Referenced Texts: Ice Rescue and emergency response instructor's manual

Course Goal: This program is designed to familiarize the rescuer with the safest and most effective method of dealing with an ice emergency.

Description of Course: Students will learn how to identify ice conditions, use ice rescue equipment and practice shore, boat and direct contact ice rescue techniques.

Description of Methodology: Lecture, audiovisual presentation, practical demonstration and exercises.

Student Equipment/Supply Needs: Note taking material, USCG approved PFD, water rescue helmet, appropriate PPE (dry suit or ice rescue suit if available)

Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements: Classroom, screen, VCR and digital projector.

Special Notes & Conditions: The training site shall be a pond or lake with sufficient depth that students do not touch the bottom while performing their skills.

Enrollment/Instructor Requirements:

Two (2) instructors shall be present for each 12 students in a class. (i.e 1-12 students = 2 instructors; 13-24 students = 4 instructors)

COURSE OUTLINE

	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Time</u>
Unit 1:	Introduction	2:00
Unit 2:	Ice Characteristics	1:00
Unit 3:	Personal Equipment	1:00
Unit 4:	Medical Considerations	:30
Unit 5:	Ice Rescue Equipment Techniques	2:00
Unit 6:	Test	:30
Unit 7:	Pool Session	2:30
Unit 8:	Outdoor Practical Session	6:30
	Total Time	16:00

Competency Evaluation Mechanism: Successful completion minimum score of 80% (of a 40 question test), complete all 3 legal forms, demonstrate & participate in all skills as detailed on the Ice Rescue and Emergency Response Skill Sheet.

Course Objectives:

- Discuss five planning considerations a department should consider when preparing for an ice rescue emergency.
- Analyze an ice related emergency and discuss how planning was or was not involved.
- Identify the temperature water must reach to become isothermic.
- Cite five factors that influence ice formation.
- Describe why ice does not form a universal thickness on a body of water.
- Identify four ice types/conditions that identify weak ice.
- List the recommended thickness guideline necessary to support one person on clear ice.
- Describe the principle of dressing in layers.
- Identify how the head, hands and feet should be protected.
- Properly don a cold-water exposure suit or dry suit.
- Identify four pieces of personal protection equipment used for ice safety and travel.
- Explain the importance of wearing a customized PFD and helmet.
- List three hazards of using a specialized rescue vest.
- List four types of personal protective equipment (PPE) for blood borne pathogens.
- Identify two types of hypothermia.
- List four methods of body heat loss.
- Discuss the care guidelines for hypothermia treatment.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION (MSA)

Ice Rescue and Emergency Response (PA Fish and Boat Commission)

April 2010

- List three medical concerns associated with water related emergencies
- Cite five factors that increase a person's chance of survival when in cold water.
- Define drowning and identify the three types
- Cite three patient evacuation techniques.
- Describe how to package a patient with hypothermia.
- Cite four factors to assess before determining which rescue technique to employ.
- List the rescue sequence from the safest to the most dangerous technique.
- Identify two advantages and disadvantages for the following equipment:
 - Throw bags/heaving line
 - Boats
 - Ring buoy
 - Exposure suits
 - Ice awls and staff
- Describe three types of equipment used for:
 - Shore based rescue
 - Boat based rescue
 - Ice based or direct contact rescue
- Tie a figure eight loop and water knot.
- Properly tie and tether a rescuer with a harness system

Questions/Comments: Contact the PA State Fire Academy Assistant Administrator

