



Lyons Fire Protection District is a certified instructing organization for Dive Rescue International's advanced three day Swiftwater Rescue II training program. All students are required to have basic swiftwater rescue skills including: excellent swimming skills (if completing course as In-Water students), 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 can be completed as either Shore Support or In-Water, depending upon the needs of each student and their physical capabilities.

Swiftwater rescue operations are inherently dangerous and with the complications of fast current, low-head dams, and/or hidden debris they can become deadly. Prepare for these special hazards by learning how to organize and manage safe swiftwater rescue operations. Participants in this program should be prepared for multiple in-water scenarios, with In-Water participants doing boat and in-water work.

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:

THE HUMAN BODY IN WATER

- Identify the factors affecting 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 affect 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

ESTABLISHING OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Define a rescue vs. recovery operation
- Describe initial search objectives and ongoing search objectives



Swiftwater Rescue II Course Objectives & Outline

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 from a recognized training organization within the last 3 years (In-Water 1 or Shore Support 1 if enrolling in Shore Support 2; In-Water 1 if enrolling in In-Water 2).

This program is designed for personnel who are physically fit. In-Water participants are encouraged to successfully complete the LFPD Modified IADRS Watermanship Test, though it is up to the discretion of the participant's commanding officer at their Public Safety Agency to make the determination for ability. Shore Support participants should also be physically fit and take into consideration that though they will not be in the water, boat handling and throwline work is physically demanding. 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 drysuit, water rescue gloves, work gloves and fins. Additionally, students should bring bagged lunches. Please contact Evan Patronik at swiftwater@lyonsfire.org with any specific questions concerning gear; Lyons Fire will be able to provide insight and suggestions for specific gear.



Swiftwater Rescue II Course Objectives & Outline

DAY 1

1800-2100

Program Introduction / Overview
Swiftwater Rescue II Lecture
Final Exam
Knot, Rigging & Highline Review

DAY 2

0800-1000

Skill Completion and Review

- Knots and Throwbag Competition
- Rigging
- 4-Line Boat Rigging
- Highline Rigging Techniques
- Rigging Exercises

1000-1630

Introduction to Objectives

Field Exercises

- River Reading: Areas of Probability
- Skill Verification: Float, Swim, & Swiftwater Rescue Board Exercises
- Contact Rescues

Lunch on the go

- Boat Operations Practice

Field Exercises

- Search / Rescue Exercises

Equipment storage for next day

DAY 3

0800-1500

Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Scenarios

- Advanced Scenarios

Lunch on the go

- Advanced Scenarios (continued)

1500-1600

Group Clean Up / Program Review / Critique / Certificates