



Dive Rescue International 2026 Swiftwater Rescue Training Standards

1. The most current version of the Swiftwater Rescue (SWR) Training Standards, Swiftwater Rescue I and II Training Manuals, other Swiftwater Rescue (SWR) printed materials, plus various audio-visual materials are to be used only for SWR Training Programs. Whenever there is a disparity between any of these materials, the SWR Training Standards take precedence. If in doubt, contact Dive Rescue International (DRI) for guidance or interpretations.
2. If a SWR Trainer needs to deviate from the SWR Training Standards, a written request (waiver) sent to DRI is required well in advance of the needed deviation. The waiver explains the reason for the deviation and the planned procedures to ensure student safety. The waiver must be approved prior to any deviation from the SWR Training Standards.
3. The Instructor/Trainer maintains both medical and physical fitness while teaching the SWR course. DRI strongly recommends the SWR Trainer complete the IADRS Watermanship Test annually in accordance with NFPA Standards. Additionally, a new **Medical Statement – Surface Rescue Program** is required to be submitted to DRI with each SWR Trainer recertification.
4. If the SWR Trainer becomes aware of any act, error, or omission which might lead to a claim or suit, or if a claim or suit is brought, DRI is to be notified immediately.
5. The recommended minimum hours for both a Swiftwater Rescue I and a Swiftwater Rescue II program are 24 hours (3 days). A “combo” SWRI/SWR II class may be taught in ~40 hours (5 days). Actual time needed will vary depending on the number of students, their skills, environmental conditions, and program logistics.
6. Each student must complete a **Liability Release** and **Statement of Understanding** prior to any in-water training. Requests to change these documents shall be submitted in writing for approval by DRI.
7. Each student must complete a **Medical Statement – Surface Rescue Program** (or other medical history statement approved by DRI) prior to in-water training. If the Medical Statement- Surface Rescue Program or the appearance/behavior of the student indicates any condition contrary to safe participation in planned class activities, the student is then required to secure medical approval by a licensed physician prior to any in-water training.
8. Each student must be provided a SWRI/SWR II student kit, as applicable.
9. Each student is required to satisfactorily complete in a minimum of two water rescue scenarios in the controlled training environment and score at least 85% on the final exam to qualify for SWRI and/or SWRII certification. If the student does not successfully complete the exam with a passing score, the student may re-take the exam once the SWR trainer feels the student better understands the material. The student must re-take the entire exam. Accommodations for students with specific learning or reading challenges will be provided when requested by the student.
10. The Instructor/Trainer shall retain and maintain the following documents for 7 years:
 - a) The SWRI/SWR II Student Folder and other documents used for monitoring and evaluating each student’s progress, skills, and knowledge.
 - b) The Liability Release/Statement of Understanding
 - c) The Medical Statement – Surface Rescue Program or other approved Medical Statement
11. A typed **Class Roster** and **Emergency Action Plan** and shall be sent to DRI (Records@diverescueintl.com) within 10 days of the completion of class.
12. The ratio of students to SWR Trainers for the classroom session is set by the Instructor/Trainer and is based on the ability of the Instructor/Trainer to deal effectively with student needs.
13. The Instructor/Trainer has an obligation to cancel or modify training when environmental conditions, students’ physical or mental conditions, or equipment difficulties make cancellation or modification advisable. This is a value judgment that can only be made by the Instructor/Trainer at the time and place of the training.
14. The Instructor/Trainer shall not harass students at any time. When students have reached a level of training where they are ready to deal with more advanced problems, then realistic problems may be presented. The students are then to solve these problems as they would in real life situations.

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- _____ 15. SWR Trainers are not to make changes in the SWR training program materials or skills that would prevent students from successfully completing the program. SWR Trainers may provide additional training time. Any other modifications must be submitted in writing to DRI for approval prior to the commencement of class.
 - _____ 16. SWR training (including “Shore Support” training) is restricted to members of public safety agencies, government agencies, or recognized SAR teams. Recognized teams are those organizations who would normally work under the direction of a government agency.
 - _____ 17. The minimum age for participation in the SWR program is 18 years old.
 - _____ 18. Students who are “Shore Support” participants are welcome in the SWR class. They must be active participants and successfully complete the written exam. “Shore Support” students must be documented on the Class Roster. DRI will issue their certificates as “Shore Support”. These certificates should also be issued to students unable to complete the open water portion of the SWR program.
 - _____ 19. Instructor/Trainers are to insist that their students inform them if they are excessively cold or tired, injured, or not feeling well. Instructor/Trainers are not to encourage students to participate if they have been ill. Canceling a planned training operation in this situation may be the best decision.
 - _____ 20. All on-scene personnel are required to inform the Instructor/Trainer of all equipment difficulties and malfunctions.
 - _____ 21. Instructor/Trainers are not to force students to perform skills. If a student verbally or by behavior indicates a desire not to do a skill, the Instructor/Trainer is to comply. The Instructor/Trainer may come back to the incomplete skill later in the class. If the skill is required for certification and has not been completed by the end of the course, the student may attend another course or the student may be provided a private instruction and re-test. This information must be documented and communicated to DRI.
 - _____ 22. A certified and current SWR Trainer working under the authority of their sponsoring agency is to be present and supervising all SWR training activities. Other agency trainers, if current and insured, may be used as assistants but cannot replace the SWR Trainer.
 - _____ 23. Prior to certification, SWR students must successfully complete all Performance Objectives on the SWR Student Folder.
 - _____ 24. During all water rescue training, each student and Instructor/Trainer are to be equipped with at least:
 - An appropriate PFD
 - Cutting tool
 - Whistle
 - Water rescue helmet
 - Environmental protection suit (per agency protocol)
 - Gloves

The Instructor/Trainer or qualified assistant shall verify each student’s safety check prior to the student entering the water. During all open water training, appropriate thermal protection such as a wet suit or swift water rescue dry suit should be available for use.

- _____ 25. In-water training sites are to be safe and realistic of local conditions.
- _____ 26. SWR training is to be conducted during daylight hours.
- _____ 27. During all in-water training activities, the in-water student to SWR Trainer ratio is not to exceed 6 to 1. The maximum in-water training stations will be limited to two.
- _____ 28. When setting the proper student/trainer ratio or site selection, the following should be considered:
 - Water conditions: movement and temperature
 - Experience of the Instructor/Trainer and experience of the students
 - Number of qualified assistants
 - Emergency support available
 - Equipment considerations
 - Weather conditions
 - Degree of control by the Instructor/Trainer
 - Water site suitability and accessibility
 - Suitability of terrain

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- Services available in the area

At no time is there to be more than 6 students in the water during training exercises. Whenever possible, other SWR Trainers should be used during training. The SWR Trainer is to decrease the in-water student to Instructor/Trainer ratio whenever environmental conditions, individual student needs or equipment considerations dictate.

_____ 29. When a class has been divided into smaller training teams, each team will supply the following support personnel for the Rescuer:

- A Downstream Safety who is appropriately prepared and is ready to work in or near the water. Preparation may include having the following:
 - 1) Water rescue helmet
 - 2) Boogie Board
 - 3) Appropriate PFD
 - 4) Fins
 - 5) Environmental protection suit (per agency protocol)
- A Team Leader who oversees the safety of all team members and is a liaison between the team and the SWR Trainer.

_____ 30. SWR training is to be conducted so the students always have a clear and unrestricted access to the shore. This requirement, therefore, bars open water SWR training on rivers partially or wholly covered in ice or debris.

_____ 31. Each SWR Trainer conducting rescue training is to have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for accidents. The plan is to include:

- Emergency guidelines
- Provisions for communications
- Provisions for transportation
- Emergency contact information

Emergency equipment that is to be available at the site includes:

- An AED (or other defibrillator)
- First Aid kit
- Oxygen unit
- Communication equipment

This equipment may be supplied by the Instructor/Trainer or by other means. The SWR Trainer must turn in a copy of their EAP when submitting a Class Roster to DRI.

By typing or signing your full name and Instructor/Trainer number, if known, in the fields below, you acknowledge you have read and understand all the Swiftwater Rescue Training Standards.

Dive Rescue International Representative/Training Team

Instructor/Trainer



Dive Rescue International 2026 Instructor/Trainer Agreement

This agreement is entered into on this _____ by and between Dive Rescue International, Inc., hereinafter referred to as Dive Rescue International (DRI) and _____ hereinafter referred to as the "Instructor/Trainer".

WITNESSETH THAT:

For and in consideration of Dive Rescue International verifying good standing, qualification and credentialing, the Instructor/Trainer agrees to abide by the following provisions and requirements:

- _____ 1. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to abide by standards and agreements established and put forth by DRI at this time, and such standards and agreements that are established and put forth by DRI at any time in the future.
- _____ 2. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to follow the class specific Standards and Agreements and the **Training System** including but not limited to the respective Trainer Manual and associated Audio-Visuals. The Instructor/Trainer also agrees to use the **Training System** for the teaching of the program and shall not copy, reproduce, or disseminate the **Training System** or its contents. Only certified Instructor/Trainers are allowed to use the **Training System**.
- _____ 3. The Instructor/Trainer understands that the Instructor/Trainer certification is granted only to members of public safety agencies and agrees to maintain his/her membership within a sponsoring public safety department or recognized public safety dive team.
- _____ 4. The Instructor/Trainer agrees that while serving in the capacity of an Instructor/Trainer to act only in such a manner as will bring credit to the Instructor/Trainer, their department, and to DRI.
- _____ 5. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to maintain all records as are required by DRI.
- _____ 6. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to provide access to such records if requested by DRI, legal counsel or the insurance company representing DRI.
- _____ 7. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to teach the specific programs in compliance with the latest version of the **Training System**. Any updated **Training System** and Trainer Manual revisions, when released, will be communicated with the Instructor/Trainer. The Instructor/Trainer is responsible for inserting the revisions in the Trainer Manual and destroying outdated material. To facilitate the exchange of information, the Instructor/Trainer provides DRI with an email address and physical mailing address within 30 days of any change.
- _____ 8. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to comply with the recertification procedures as stipulated by DRI.
- _____ 9. To facilitate the exchange of information, the Instructor/Trainer will ensure DRI has an up-to-date email and physical address.
- _____ 10. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to maintain current certification as a Public Safety SCUBA Instructor or a recreational SCUBA Instructor with a nationally recognized training agency (not applicable for trainers of surface rescue classes).
- _____ 11. The Instructor/Trainer understands that he/she is not an agent, employee, or legal representative of DRI and has no authority to bind DRI in any manner.



Dive Rescue International 2026 Instructor/Trainer Agreement

- _____ 12. Because DRI is unable to directly monitor the training process, teaching practices, or the activities of their Instructor/Trainers, it is clearly understood that Certificates of Training and all other materials are issued by DRI to Instructor/Trainers as a service. It is the sole responsibility of the Instructor/Trainer to assure that every person who receives a class certification meets all criteria as established in the published Training Standards. The Instructor/Trainer further agrees not to submit for certification or issue certification to any person who in any way fails to meet the intent as well as the letter of standards.
- _____ 13. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to maintain certification/proficiency in CPR and either First Aid, EMT, or Paramedic licensure.
- _____ 14. The Instructor/Trainer must be a current Instructor/Trainer in good standing with DRI to instruct this program.
- _____ 15. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to provide on department letterhead at initial certification and every recertification, a letter from his/her respective department stating that liability insurance coverage is provided through the department while working within his/her scope of employment for said department.
- _____ 16. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to teach the DRI training programs only to members of their sponsoring public safety agency. Teaching outside their sponsoring public safety agency requires a specific written waiver from DRI.
- _____ 17. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to promptly and immediately report to DRI accidents or incidents of any nature for the purpose of statistical data and future accident prevention measures.

The Instructor/Trainer agrees and understands that if he/she fails to meet any of the above provisions, standards or agreements, his/her status as an Instructor/Trainer is subject to immediate revocation at the discretion of authorized DRI personnel.

The undersigned state that they have read the foregoing and understand all terms, conditions, and provisions therein as indicated by their signatures hereon below.

Dive Rescue International Representative/Training Team

Instructor/Trainer



Dive Rescue International Audio-Visual System Agreement

This agreement is entered into on _____ by and between Dive Rescue International, Inc. (DRI), 201 North Link Lane, Suite A, Fort Collins, CO 80524-2712 and Instructor/Trainer _____.

In consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Agreement and for other valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. Audio-Visual System Use

Dive Rescue International has compiled an audio-visual system of print and digital media for use in presenting Dive Rescue International's training programs. This print and digital media, currently constituting Dive Rescue International's audio-visual system, together with any other components of Dive Rescue International's audio-visual system as it may be constituted in the future, are referred to in this Agreement as the "System". Dive Rescue International grants Instructor/Trainer the right to use the System under the terms of this Agreement in conducting such Dive Rescue International training programs as may be authorized by Dive Rescue International. Without the express written consent of Dive Rescue International, Instructor/Trainer shall not make any use of this System other than in conducting the referenced Dive Rescue International training programs and shall not copy, reproduce, or disseminate the System or its contents.

2. Proprietary Rights

The System is proprietary to Dive Rescue International and any unauthorized use of the System will cause irreparable harm and loss to Dive Rescue International. By this Agreement, Dive Rescue International grants no rights to Instructor/Trainer under any copyrights or trade names associated with the System.

3. Assignment

Instructor/Trainer's right to use the System is personal to Instructor/Trainer and Instructor/Trainer shall not transfer or assign this Agreement or any rights under this Agreement without the prior written consent of Dive Rescue International.

4. Breach of Agreement

If Instructor/Trainer breaches any provision of this Agreement, Dive Rescue International may immediately revoke all Dive Rescue International certifications held by Instructor/Trainer and may assert against Instructor/Trainer all available legal and equitable remedies and shall be entitled to all costs and attorney fees incurred in doing so. Instructor/Trainer also agrees to indemnify and hold Dive Rescue International harmless against all liability, loss, or damage, including attorney fees, which Dive Rescue International may suffer as a result of claims, demands, costs, or judgments against it arising directly or indirectly from Instructor/Trainer's performance or nonperformance of this Agreement.

5. Termination

Dive Rescue International reserves the right to terminate this Agreement at any time and for any reason upon thirty (30) days written notice to the Instructor/Trainer. On termination, should the Instructor/Trainer then have the System in the Instructor/Trainer's possession, Instructor/Trainer shall immediately return the System to Dive Rescue International as provided in Section 1 above.

6. General Provisions

- a) Waiver of Breach: No waiver of any breach of this Agreement shall constitute a waiver or any other or subsequent breach.
- b) Entire Agreement: This instrument reflects the entire Agreement between the parties, and it cannot be modified except in writing.
- c) Binding Effect: This Agreement shall not be binding upon and insure to the benefit of the parties, their successors, assigns and legal representation.