



Confined Space Rescue Program Update

Driven by feedback from our state's fire service, the South Carolina Fire Academy announces updates to its Confined Space programs. Effective October 1, 2024 the Confined Space Entry and Operations program will be accredited by IFSAC and Proboard. This updated 40-hour program (3396) is structured into three separate courses: Awareness, Operations, and Technician.

Confined Space Rescue AOT (3396)

This 40-hour course includes all three confined space levels: Confined Space Awareness (CSA), Operations (CSO), and Technician (CST). The course ends with a cumulative, accredited-level exam, as well as skills evaluations for all three levels. Students passing all levels will receive a single certificate listing all three levels: Awareness, Operations, and Technician.

Testing and Grading

Although students will take one cumulative exam, all three levels will be graded separately. If a student does not pass one or more, they will receive certificates for the levels they pass but must retest the failed levels in order, ensuring lower levels are passed first. Certificates for higher levels will only be issued once lower levels are completed successfully. Students must retake exams for each level they do not complete successfully.

Retests

The 120-day retesting window begins on the date of course completion. Since there are potentially three levels to retest, the 30-day waiting period between the second and third attempts will be waived. Students are required to complete all retests within the 120-day testing window.

Challenge Exams

Students who completed the "old" Confined Space Entry (3390) and Confined Space Rescue (3392) can take the accredited Confined Space Rescue Challenge test (4525). If they are successful, they will receive a certificate for Confined Space Technician only, and will not be able to challenge Confined Space Awareness or Confined Space Operations. This challenge option is available until October 1, 2027.

Note: Students who have not completed both the "old" Confined Space Entry (3390) and Confined Space Rescue (3392) are not eligible to challenge any level, and must complete the cumulative 3396 course.

Questions? Click to email [Terrell Brown](#)