SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE
a Division of South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
South Carolina Fire Academy
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WATER RESCUE COURSE TRANSITION

The SC Fire Academy is introducing two new surface water rescue courses to enhance firefighter safety, strengthen rescue capabilities, and align training with NFPA 1006 (2021 edition, Chapter 17). These courses will provide progressive training at the Awareness, Operations and Technician levels.

SURFACE WATER AWARENESS AND OPERATIONS (3351)

Prerequisite Course: 3310-Technical Rescuer

Effective Jan. 1, 2027, this eight-hour course will replace Water Rescue Operations (3350). This non-accredited course prepares firefighters to conduct surface water rescue operations from shore or within a designated warm zone. Training includes:

- Hazard identification and risk assessment
- Shore-based rescue operations and scene planning
- Rescue techniques using throw bags and reach devices
- Team communication and coordination
- 50-yard swim test and three minutes of treading water

SURFACE WATER TECHNICIAN (3352)

Prerequisite Course: 3350-Water Rescue Operations or 3351-Surface Water Awareness and Operations

This non-accredited 16-hour course prepares firefighters to perform and supervise advanced surface water rescue operations. Training includes:

- Advanced technical rescue skills
- Victim management
- Team leadership and coordination
- Rescuer safety in various water environments
- 250-yard swim test and water rescue techniques

INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRATION

Surface Water Awareness and Operations: Current Water Rescue Operations-3350 instructors are eligible to complete the online instructor update. Updates must be completed by January 31, 2027.

- Class dates: November 15-30 Click here to register for 3951 27w01
- Class dates: December 1-15 Click here to register for 3951 27w02
- Class dates: January 1-15 Click here to register for 3951 27w03

Surface Water Technician (3352): Because this is a new course, instructors must register for and successfully complete the Surface Water Technician (3352) class to receive credit for both the class and Instructor Orientation Workshop.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Bonita Watters.