



## Dive Rescue International 2026 Ice Rescue Training Standards

1. The most current version of the Ice Rescue (IR) Training Standards, Ice Rescue Training Manual, Ice Rescue Student Kit, other Ice Rescue printed materials, plus various audio-visual materials are to be used only for IR Training Programs. Whenever there is a disparity between any of these materials, the IR Training Standards take precedence. If in doubt, contact Dive Rescue International (DRI) for guidance or interpretations.
2. If an IR Trainer needs to deviate from the IR 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 IR Training Standards.
3. The Instructor/Trainer maintains both medical and physical fitness while teaching the IR course. DRI strongly recommends the IR 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 IR Trainer recertification.
4. If the IR 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 an Ice Rescue program are 12 hours (1.5 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 on-ice 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 on-ice 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 on-ice training.
8. Each student must be provided an IR student kit.
9. Each student is required to satisfactorily participate in a minimum of two ice rescues in the controlled training environment and score at least 85% on the final exam to qualify for Ice Rescue certification. If the student does not successfully complete the exam with a passing score, the student may re-take the exam once the Instructor/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 IR 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** shall be sent to DRI ([Records@diverescueintl.com](mailto:Records@diverescueintl.com)) within 10 days of the completion of class.
12. The ratio of students to IR Trainers for the classroom session is set by the individual 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.
15. IR Trainers are not to make changes in the IR training program materials or skills that would prevent students from successfully completing the program. IR Trainers may provide additional training. Any other modifications must be submitted in writing to DRI for approval prior to the commencement of class.

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16. IR training (including "Shore Support" training) is restricted to members of public safety agencies, government agencies, recognized SAR teams, or recognized public safety dive 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 IR program is 18 years old.

18. Students who are "Shore Support" participants are welcome in the IR 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 on-ice portion of the IR 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 IR Trainer working under the authority of their sponsoring agency is to be present and supervising all IR training activities. Other agency trainers, if current and insured, may be used as assistants but cannot replace the IR Trainer.

23. Prior to certification, IR student must successfully complete all Performance Objectives on the Ice Rescue Student Folder.

24. During all on-ice training, each student and Instructor/Trainer are to be equipped with proper thermal protection and an appropriate PFD. Students participating in on-ice rescues should include the use of cold-water rescue/ice rescue suits. The Instructor/Trainer or qualified assistant shall verify each student's safety check prior to the student entering the water.

25. IR Training is not to be conducted in any body of water with a current. This is a static water rescue class. Ice sites are to be safe and realistic of local conditions.

26. If no ice is available for training, the IR Trainer may select an appropriate open water site to conduct this portion of the program. This open water site is to provide a realistic and safe environment where the IR Trainer can maintain a high degree of control of the rescue activities. It may be advisable to reschedule the on-ice portion of the program until a later date.

27. During on-ice training activities, the maximum on-ice student to IR Trainer ratio is 12 to 1. The maximum on-ice training stations will be limited to two.

28. When setting the proper student/trainer ratio or site selection, the following should be considered:

- Ice conditions: movement, type, thickness, and strength
- 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
- Ice site suitability and accessibility
- Suitability of terrain

At no time is there to be more than 12 students on the ice during training exercises. Whenever possible other IR Trainers should be used during training. The IR Trainer is to decrease the on-ice 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 Back-up Rescuer who is fully dressed and ready to work in the water or on the ice.

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- A Line Tender to monitor the primary rescuer's progress and comfort level.
- A Team Leader who oversees the safety of all team members and is a liaison between the team and the IR Trainer.

It is highly recommended that a 90% Rescuer and additional Line Tender be utilized.

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30. Ice Rescue training is to be conducted so the students always have a clear and unrestricted access to the shore.

31. Each IR 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
- Re-warming station
- Communication equipment

This equipment may be supplied by the Instructor/Trainer or by other means. The IR 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 Ice Rescue Training Standards.

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Dive Rescue International Representative/Training Team

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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.

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Dive Rescue International Representative/Training Team

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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.