



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SWIFT
WATER TEAM TRAINING PROGRAM**

**CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR
SWIFT WATER BOAT CREW MEMBER**

Candidate Name: _____ ID# _____ Date: _____

Station/Shift/Dept: _____ Evaluator: _____

Boat Support #: _____ Boat #: _____ Water Level: _____ ft.

| Section | Competencies/Requirements | Evaluator | Date Completed |
|------------|---|-----------|----------------|
| 1.0 | PPE | | |
| 1.1 | Candidate will be able to describe the type of PFD the swift water rescue team uses, and its features. | | |
| 1.2 | Candidate will describe a properly fitting PFD and the proper water rescue helmet and don them. | | |
| 1.3 | Candidate will properly weave the quick release buckle (Critical Skill) | | |
| 1.4 | Candidate will list three safety accessories to be worn on the PFD. | | |
| 1.5 | Candidate will describe the proper care and maintenance for a dry suit including the zipper, seals and storage as well as proper cleaning and disinfecting of the dry suit. | | |
| 1.6 | Candidate will describe the importance of wearing a liner or insulating clothing under a dry suit. | | |
| 1.7 | Candidate will properly don and doff the dry suit. | | |
| 1.8 | Candidate will describe appropriate footwear to be used with or without the dry suit | | |

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|------------|---|-----------|----------------|
| 2.0 | Pre Response Checkout | | |
| 2.1 | Candidate will identify all portions of the boat with all the proper marine terminology. | | |
| 2.2 | Candidate will identify each chamber and the proper inflation and inspection of the boats within the Swift Water Rescue Team. | | |
| 2.3 | Candidate will explain the different types of hitches and how to connect the boat trailers to them. | | |
| 2.4 | Candidate will perform a Pre-Response readiness check to ensure all equipment and gear is ready. | | |

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| 3.0 | TOWING/TRAILERING REQUIREMENT | | |
| 3.1 | Candidate will complete the Montgomery County Fire Rescue Emergency Vehicle Driver/Operator Towing with a 1/2-1 Ton Vehicle Competency Checklist <i>(Attached to this Document)</i> | | |
| 3.2 | Candidate will drive boat support to Old Anglers Inn, Properly Open access gate, and proceed to anglers launch site. | | |
| 3.3 | Candidate will launch a swift water boat at anglers. (Total Launch Time from arriving at Anglers to launching a boat should be no more than 10 minutes.) <i>(Critical Skill)</i> | | |
| 3.4 | Candidate will park boat support and empty trailer in a position to facilitate the launching of other boats and will describe the importance of a backup person, and the use of that person to remove straps and bow line upon launching. | | |

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|------------|--|-----------|----------------|
| 4.0 | Potomac River Location and Identification | | |
| 4.1 | Candidate will describe what Island the Billy Goat Trail Runs Through. | | |
| 4.2 | Candidate will Point out and accurately describe the Virginia, Center and Maryland Chutes. | | |
| 4.3 | Candidate will describe how to get to the Emergency Exit Trail and lead the operator to the proper location for boat docking. (Critical Skill) | | |
| 4.4 | Candidate will identify, the Sandy Landing boat ramp and the Traverse. | | |
| 4.5 | Candidate will identify at least three more of the following: Wet Bottom, Rocky Islands, Catfish Hole, Mary's Wall, S-turn, Fish ladder, O-Deck Rapids. | | |

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| 5.0 | BOAT OPERATIONS | | |
| 5.1 | Candidate will describe the importance of proper gear check of secured gear prior to deployment of the boat. | | |
| 5.2 | Candidate will identify starting procedures and perform them. | | |
| 5.3 | Candidate will describe the kill switch and its use. | | |
| 5.4 | Candidate will get into the water and enter the boat unassisted. (Critical Skill) | | |
| 5.5 | Candidate will successfully operate the boat for a minimum of 10 minutes using simple maneuvers. | | |

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| 6.0 | RESCUE | | |
| 6.1 | Candidate will identify the minimum distance to shore area required for a PFD and identify Hot, Warm, and Cold zones on the River. | | |
| 6.2 | Candidate will demonstrate and explain all hand and whistle signals. | | |
| 6.3 | Candidate will identify the five levels of the RESCUE Sequence. | | |
| 6.4 | Candidate will explain the characteristics used in a throw line, in its length, type and properties. | | |
| 6.5 | Candidate will explain why it is important for a fixed loop at the end of the throw bag and what the proper size is. | | |
| 6.6 | Candidate will explain the method of using a throw bag and will successfully demonstrate. | | |
| 6.7 | Candidate will demonstrate the proper method for re-coiling the rope and perform execution of the re-throw within 20 secs. (Critical Skill) | | |
| 6.8 | Candidate will properly show the efficient method of repacking a throw bag. | | |
| 6.9 | Candidate will identify two rescue techniques to recover an injured or unconscious victim into the boat. | | |
| 6.10 | Candidate will perform a rescue of a person in the water (two times) (Critical Skill) | | |
| 6.11 | Candidate will identify the proper equipment needed for parbuckling an unconscious victim or patient into the boat and successfully demonstrate. | | |
| 6.12 | Candidate will identify the contact points on victim and importance for parbuckling. | | |
| 6.13 | Candidate will pull victim in using the parbuckling technique. | | |

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| 7.0 | FLOODING | | |
| 7.1 | Candidate will describe the proper application for shallow water crossing, explaining the importance of proper speed and depth of the water. | | |
| 7.2 | Candidate will Explain how to properly mark the shoreline, car, etc. during flood operations. | | |
| 7.3 | Candidate will describe equipment needed and the purpose to successfully perform a shallow water crossing. | | |
| 7.4 | Candidate will implement proper standards and successfully demonstrate a shallow water crossing. (on land or in water) | | |
| 7.5 | Candidate will describe, while performing shallow water crossing, where safety shall be staged and what equipment they should have. | | |

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| 8.0 | NIGHT OPERATIONS | | |
| 8.1 | Candidate will describe what type of lighting are advantages. (natural or artificial lighting) | | |
| 8.2 | Candidate will describe the most preferred color of artificial lighting. | | |
| 8.3 | Candidate will describe placement of illumination on the boat and proper placement on rescuers. | | |
| 8.4 | Candidate will describe what color is best for shore based markings; identify shore and land locations and their purpose. | | |

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| 9.0 | SEARCH AND INTERVIEW | | |
| 9.1 | Candidate will describe the information that should be ascertained when interviewing bystanders | | |
| 9.2 | Candidate will describe methods for searching the shoreline via ground and water | | |
| 9.3 | Candidate will describe how the shoreline should be marked (glow sticks, tape, etc.) | | |
| 9.4 | Candidate will describe how to mark victim's last known location | | |

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| 10.0 | MEDICAL | | |
| 10.1 | Candidate will describe how many times faster water conducts heat. | | |
| 10.2 | Candidate will identify four processes of heat loss. | | |
| 10.3 | Candidate will define hypothermia. | | |
| 10.4 | Candidate will describe patient care for wet and hypothermic victims. | | |
| 10.5 | Candidate will describe passive re-warming of the hypothermic patient. | | |
| 10.6 | Candidate will describe the risks of rapid rewarming of the patient. | | |
| 10.7 | Candidate will describe the risks and effects on the hypothermic rescuer. | | |
| 10.8 | Candidate will describe cold water shock and its effects. | | |

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| 11.0 | ROPE | | |
| 11.1 | Candidate will list and then retrieve all equipment necessary for stokes basket evolution. | | |
| 11.2 | Candidate will properly perform Inner lashing. <i>(Critical Skill)</i> | | |
| 11.3 | Candidate will properly perform outer lashing. <i>(Critical Skill)</i> | | |
| 11.4 | Candidate will properly set up stokes basket for a hoist. | | |

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| 12.0 | RECOVERY | | |
| 12.1 | Candidate will back up boat support and trailer into water at Anglers ramp to begin recovery of boat back onto trailer. | | |
| 12.2 | Candidate will attach bow strap, properly tighten and ensure proper position of boat on trailer prior to moving the vehicle. | | |
| 12.3 | Candidate will pull forward, place vehicle in park with use of step chock, and secure boat and all equipment. | | |
| 12.4 | Candidate will ensure boat and boat support is returned to service properly with all equipment back in proper location. | | |
| 12.5 | Candidate will describe anything else that may be required prior to returning to service. | | |

Send Copies To:

- Employee,
- Swift Water Training Officer,
- Swift Water Assistant Team Leader
- Swift Water Team Leader,
- Technical Rescue Battalion Chief,