



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
**State Fire Training Division**  
P.O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
(916) 568-2911  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



**Date:** February 20, 2020

**To:** State Board of Fire Services

**From:** Joe Bunn and Kevin Conant, Fire service Training Specialist

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**

River and Flood Water Rescue (1996) Course Retirement

**Recommended Actions:**

Approve the Course Retirement of River and Flood Water Rescue (1996)

**Background Information:**

The River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019) course was approved by STEAC in April 2019 and SBFS in September 2019. The course is new to the SFT system; however this curriculum has been utilized for training throughout the State of California since 2015. This course originally was developed and facilitated under a firefighter grant through Office of Emergency Services (OES). This project is a joint effort between the California Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), State Fire Training (SFT), the Office of Emergency Services, Fire and Rescue Branch and CAL FIRE, Training Center (Ione). This curriculum was put into the developmental format that all FSTEP and Certification Trainings Standards utilize for SFT.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

During the implementation of the River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019) curriculum, the implementation plan did not show the retirement of the legacy River and Flood Water Rescue (1996) course. SFT is proposing to retire River and Flood Water Rescue (1996) on June 30, 2020. After that date, agencies will need to utilize the River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019) course.

Current SFT Registered Instructors that are instructors for the CAL OES course titled: River/Flood Rescue Technician (2015) are authorized to teach the new River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019) course.

Current SFT Registered Instructors that are teaching the River and Flood Water Rescue (1996) course, which is a 16-hour course will not be able to facilitate the new River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019) course, which is a 40-hour curriculum. Instructors of River and Flood Water Rescue (1996) will be required to take the River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019) course or apply for PACE II in order to teach the new course.

A revised River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019) Implementation Plan is included with this staff report to show the River and Flood Water Rescue (1996) course retirement.



# RIVER AND FLOOD RESCUE TECHNICIAN Curriculum Implementation Plan

Issued: May 2019

## OVERVIEW

This document is intended to provide information for all State Fire Training (SFT) stakeholders on the new **River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019)**. This was a collative effort with the CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal - State Fire Training, the Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) - Fire and Rescue Branch, and CAL FIRE - Training Center to develop a number of curriculums requested by stakeholders. Stakeholders are encouraged to study this information carefully and seek clarification from SFT if questions arise.

## IMPLEMENTATION

**River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019).....Available April 1, 2019**

This new course plan has been developed based on the authority of the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Professional Qualification Standards, which includes NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications (2017). In addition, ICS-420-1 Field Operations Guide, ICS-SF-SAR-020 Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Recommended Training, Skills and Equipment List (current edition), NFPA 1500, NFPA 1521, and NFPA 1561 aided among others as supporting documents when creating these Course Plans. The Course Plans will be available on the SFT website.

New Curriculum	Hours
River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019)	264

**River and Flood Water Rescue (1996) Curriculum Retirement ..... June 30, 2020**  
 Effective July 1, 2020 River and Flood Water Rescue (1996) course will be retired.

## INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS

Current SFT Registered Instructors that are instructors for the CAL OES course titled: River/Flood Rescue Technician (2015) are authorized to teach River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019) course.

Current SFT Registered Instructors teaching the River and Flood Water Rescue (1996), which is a 16-hour course, will not be able to teach the new River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019) course, which is a 40-hour curriculum. Instructors of River and Flood Water Rescue (1996) will be required to take the River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019) course or apply for PACE II.

New instructors for River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019) shall meet the SFT requirements for Registered Instructor and shall be required to either take the new course or apply for a PACE II review of their instructor qualifications, including appropriate education and practical experience relating to course content.



# RIVER AND FLOOD RESCUE TECHNICIAN

## Curriculum Implementation Plan

---

Additionally, a new instructor of the FSTEP course River and Flood Rescue Technician (2019), the following shall apply:

1. Rank and Professional Experience:
  - a. Held a permanent position within a Recognized Fire Agency in California for a minimum of three years or;  
Worked in a volunteer position or paid call firefighter with a Recognized Fire Agency in California for a minimum of five years.
  - b. Must have specific expertise in Technical Rescue as it relates to the River/Flood environment.

### **POTENTIAL AGENCY IMPACTS**

Fire agencies utilizing the existing CAL OES River/Flood Rescue Technician should have little or no impacts making the transition from that course to the new update curriculum format for training or operational implementation.

Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP), Accredited Local Academies (ALA), community colleges and all other local delivery venues need to review the curriculum and seek approval from their curriculum committee/program sponsor, as appropriate.