

8. Ice/Surface Rescue Ops

8.1 Introduction

The ERDI Surface Ice Rescue Ops Component is designed to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for surface ice rescue operations in emergency response diving.

8.2 Student Prerequisites

1. Minimum age 18.
2. Current CPR and first aid certification.

8.3 Qualifications of Graduates

Upon successful completion of the ERDI Ice/Surface Ops Component, students will have developed the knowledge and skills necessary to plan and execute ice/surface operations.

8.4 Who May Teach

An active ERDI Instructor or ERDI Non-Diving Specialty Instructor that has been certified to teach this ops component.

8.5 Administrative Requirements

Administrative Tasks:

1. Collect the course fees from all the students.
2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment.
3. Communicate the schedule to the students.
4. Have the students complete the:
 - a. *ERDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk* Form.
 - b. *ERDI Medical Statement* Form.

Upon successful completion of the course the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate ERDI certification by submitting the ERDI Diver Registration form to ERDI Headquarters or registering the students online through member's area of the ERDI website

8.6 Training Material

Required Manuals:

ERDI Instructors may use any materials they feel are relevant to the course Certification.

8.7 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic:

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facilities, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter.

Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river, or estuary):

1. A maximum of 12 students per instructor.
2. It is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate.
3. At no time may an ERDI Ice/Surface Rescue Instructor have more than 2 tethered students in the water

8.8 Course Structure and Duration

Course Structure:

1. ERDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level.

Duration:

1. Classroom and briefing: Approximately 3 hours.
2. Ice/Shore evolutions: Approximately 8 hours.

8.9 Required Equipment

Student:

1. Immersion suit appropriate for the conditions.
2. Tether harness.
3. USCG approved personal floatation device (PFD).

Instructor:

1. All student equipment.
2. Any specialized equipment to complete ice training requirements such as line bags with line, rescue sled, line throwing devices (throw bag, line gun etc.) locking carabineers.

8.10 Approved Outline

Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics.

The following topics must be covered:

Environment:

1. Types of Ice, Characteristics and Traits.
2. Impact of Weather.
3. Water, Currents.
4. Tidal Areas, Rivers, Lakes.

Victims:

1. Human:
 - a. Aggressive.
 - b. Passive.
 - c. Unconscious.
2. Animal:
 - a. Domestic/Farm.
 - b. Team capabilities.
3. Hypothermia:
 - a. Effects on victims and rescuers.
 - b. Heat loss factors.
 - c. Signs and symptoms.
 - d. Proper patient handling/treatment.

Operations:

1. Team Selection.
2. Assignments/Roles of Team Members:
 - a. Incident commander.
 - b. Spotter.
 - c. Primary rescuer.
 - d. Primary tender.
 - e. Backup rescuer.
 - f. Backup tender.

3. Incident Command:
 - a. Standard operating procedures (SOPs)/standard operating guidelines (SOGs).
 - b. Pre-planning.
 - c. Mutual aid.
 - d. Scene set up and control.
4. Tender Operations.

Equipment:

1. Immersion Protection:
 - a. Dry suits/wetsuits, suitability, pros and cons.
 - b. Gumby suit, rescue suits.
 - c. Other exposure protection.
 - d. Shore personnel.
 - e. Maintenance.
2. Primary and Backup Rescuer:
 - a. Harness and tethers.
 - b. PFD's.
 - c. Cutting devices.
 - d. Signaling devices.
 - e. Fins.
3. Line Bags/Throw Bags.
4. Ice Pole, Use, Placement.
5. Ice Awls/Picks.
6. Ice Rescue Sling:
 - a. Positioning on rescuer/victim
 - b. Line rigging.
7. Rescue Sled:
 - a. Features.
 - b. Placement for victim extrication/transport.

Rescue Techniques:

1. Scene Size Up.
2. Communicating with Victim if Possible.

3. Reach, Throw or Go, Decision Making Process.
4. Victim Rescue:
 - a. Approach.
 - b. Ice assessment.
 - c. Rescuer positioning, victim.
 - d. Victim assessment, extrication and transport.
5. Self-Rescue Techniques.

8.11 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

All students are required to rotate through team positions as primary rescuer, primary tender, backup rescuer and backup tender.

All students are required to show proficiency in the following skills:

1. Proper donning of immersion protection.
2. Ice assessment.
3. Tending of rescuer.
4. Approach of victim.
5. Victim extrication and transport.
6. Self-rescue techniques.