

## Rescue 3 International

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# Swiftwater Rescue Boat Operator General & Behavioral Objectives

## General Objectives

1. Students completing this course will have an understanding of small boat operations in conditions ranging from flat water to class III whitewater.
2. Students completing this course will have been exposed to the latest technology in equipment and techniques for river operations using small rigid and inflatable boats.
3. Students completing this course will understand the relationship of river small boat operations to the philosophy of swiftwater rescue generally.
4. Students completing this course will appreciate how critical self-rescue skills are in the venue to technical boat operations in swiftwater.

## Behavioral Objectives

At the completion of this course the student will:

1. Have been introduced to the skills and knowledge required to operate rigid-hulled and inflatable small boats in river and moving water conditions up to Class 3 on the AWA whitewater scale;
2. Understand how critical continuing practice and experience are to such operations;
3. Have the skills necessary to affect boat-based rescues in moving water up to Class 3, both with victims in the water, or on obstructions;
4. Appreciate the basics of "risk/benefit" decision-making as it pertains to small boat operations in swiftwater;
5. Understand the basic swiftwater rescue skills necessary to effect shore-based rescues of victims;
6. Been exposed to the basic swiftwater rescue skills critical to self-rescue;
7. Have an understanding of the role of swiftwater rescue boats in extended river search operations;

8. Understand the basic medical concerns and problems in river and flood rescues;
9. Have been introduced to be the basic rope systems necessary to rescue pinned and trapped boats;
10. Understand the concept of relative motion and ferry angles for entering and leaving eddies, and for approaching other objects and boats;
11. Understand the basics of anchoring in current;
12. And will have been introduced to the basics of night search and rescue operations using boats in swiftwater.

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# Swiftwater Rescue Boat Operator Course Outline

## Day One

Introductory videos .....	½ hour
Rescue Philosophy; the Absolutes of Swiftwater Rescue. Lecture .....	½ hour
River hydrology and dynamics. Lecture .....	1 hour
Advanced boat rescues (Low head dams and rope systems).....	1 hour
Night Operations Lecture.....	½ hour
Personal and team equipment. Lecture.....	½ hour
Boats—types and handling. Rigid vs. inflatable vs. rigid-hulled inflatable; Prop v. jet.....	½ hour
Team organization and pre-planning. Lecture .....	½ hour
Trailerling.....	½ hour
Boat maintenance.....	½ hour
<b>Lunch</b>	
On-scene safety orientation. Lecture.....	½ hour
Paddle boat types and terms. Lecture.....	½ hour
Basic team paddle skills (class 1 to 3 water).....	2 hours
Individual paddle skills (class 1 to 3 water).....	1 hour

## Day Two

On-scene safety orientation. Lecture.....	½ hour
Boat familiarization in class 1 water (Pivots and turns).....	2 hours
Boat maneuvers class 1 water (Serpentine course).....	2 hours
Approaching objects class 1 water.....	1 hour

### **Dinner**

### **Night operations**

Boat maneuvers class 1 water (Serpentine course).....	2 hours
Loading and trailering at night.....	1 hour

## Day Three

Boat familiarization (class 3 water).....	2 hours
Ferry Angles.....	1 hour
Turns and pivots (entering and exiting eddies and current).....	1 hour

### **Lunch**

Maneuvering class 3 rapids (Upstream and downstream).....	2 hours
Victim and crew recovery.....	1 hour
Boat rigging (low head dams and towing).....	1 hour
Skill sheets and class evaluations.....	1 hour

## End of Course

**NOTE: This outline is subject to changes at the instructors' discretion, depending on local, water, and weather conditions, and the types of boats available.**