TECHNICAL RESCUER

CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

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TECHNICAL RESCUER DIRECTIVE OVERVIEW

The AFSC developed the Technical Rescuer (TR) certification directive based on industry standards with the intent to provide Alaska fire service agencies with a method to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to provide high quality training to emergency responders within their organizations. The AFSC developed this directive to meet the 2013 edition of the NFPA 1006, *Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications.* The intent of the TR material is to support fire service organizations and ensure that they are managing technical rescue activities during emergency response operations in a proficient, professional, and uniform manner throughout the State of Alaska.

Certification for TR levels require that individuals meet AFSC application requirements and complete the following elements:

1) A Technical Rescuer course specific to the level of certification; *and*
2) Successful evaluation of practical job performance requirements (JPR's) specific to the level of certification; *and*
3) Successful completion of the AFSC Technical Rescuer written examination (70% minimum score) specific to the level of certification.

The AFSC administers an examination to evaluate that applicants have successfully met the requisite knowledge and skill requirements within the NFPA standard. Applicants that successfully complete the AFSC Technical Rescuer examination process are eligible for certification. The AFSC may honor in-part technical rescuer certification levels through a reciprocity process.

LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION

The AFSC TR certification directive follows the 2013 edition of NFPA 1006. Multiple levels of certification are available through this directive: General Technical Rescuer (GTR) and Technical Rope Rescuer Level I/II (TRR). Training for TR certification is available through is typically available through the Bureau of Fire Accreditation, Standards and Training (BFAST) sponsored courses or other programs accredited by the AFSC/BFAST. The AFSC provides certificates for all levels of certification and administers certification examinations for TR upon completion of an approved course.

General Technical Rescuer (GTR):

The GTR shall support a team in areas of technical rescue in the safest possible manner and follow national, federal, state, provincial, and local safety standards as they apply to the general technical rescuer.

Technical Rope Rescuer Level I (TRR-I):

In addition to GTR, the TRR-I shall demonstrate competence to direct a team in the operation of a simple rope mechanical advantage system in a high-angle raising operation, so that the movement is controlled, a reset is accomplished, the load can be held in place when needed, operating methods do not stress the system to the point of failure, commands are used to direct the operation, and potential problems are identified, communicated, and managed.

Technical Rope Rescuer Level II (TRR-II):

In addition to TRR-I, the TRR-II shall demonstrate competency to complete an assignment while suspended from a rope rescue system in a high-angle environment, so that risks to victims and rescuers are minimized; the means of attachment to the rope rescue system is secure; selected specialized equipment facilitates efficient rescuer movement; and specialized equipment does not unduly increase risks to rescuers or victims.

TECHNICAL RESCUER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for Technical Rescuer certification applicants must meet the following requirements:

General Technical Rescuer (GTR):

a. be at least 18 years of age, *and;*
b. applicant must be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, *and;*
c. have a minimum of Hazardous Materials Operations certification (*proof of AFSC certification required)*; *and*
d. *successfully complete a BFAST/AFSC approved Technician Rescuer course for a given level of certification to include GTR, *and;*
e. *successfully complete the AFSC written GTR exam with a minimum score of 70% and pass the required practical skills.

Technical Rope Rescuer I (TRR-I)

To qualify for this level of certification, applicants must:
a. be an AFSC certified GTR, or eligible to test for GTR, and;
b. *successfully complete a BFAST/AFSC approved Rope Rescuer I course, *and;*
c. *successfully complete the AFSC written exam with a score of 70% or higher and pass the required practical skills.

Technical Rope Rescuer II (TRR-II)

To qualify for this level of certification, applicants must:
a. be an AFSC certified TRR-I, or eligible to test for TRR-I, and;
b. *successfully complete a BFAST/AFSC approved Technical Rope Rescuer II course, *and;*
c. *successfully complete the AFSC written exam with a score of 70% or higher and pass the required practical skills.

Note:* A candidate must complete the course requirement <u>and</u> the written test requirement within **<u>three years</u> of application date and must meet NFPA 1006 core requirements.

APPROVED TECHNICAL RESCUER TRAINING COURSES

For eligibility to complete Technical Rescuer certification examinations applicants must complete an AFSC approved training course. An accredited entity with an AFSC approved course may provide technical rescuer training. If an entity is interested in conducting an AFSC approved Technical Rescuer course that will result in AFSC certification the entity must contact the Training and Education Bureau well in advance of the course start (*minimum of 60 days*). An entity that conducts a Technical Rescuer course without prior approval from AFSC **will not** be eligible for AFSC certification examinations.

The primary design of TR courses is to satisfy the knowledge and practical skill requirements of NFPA 1006. The TR Final Examination Packet and requisite Technical Rescuer Training Record are utilized for the final examination to ensure the candidate has met the requisite skill requirements before issuance of certification.

Upon approval to test, a candidate must successfully pass the final examination to receive AFSC TR level certification. A candidate must complete the final examination within 3 years of the completion an accredited/approved course.

TECHNICAL RESCUER EXAMINATIONS

The Fire Standards Council has a validated written examination test bank for Technical Rescuer. Each level of TR examination has 50 total questions. Questions from the test banks are referenced to NFPA 1006, *Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications*, 2013 edition. Technical Rescuer certification examinations are typically administered immediately following an approved TR course.

For individuals who have met the criteria to test for TR, but are not able to test with a group, a Training Officer must submit a request for examination to the AFSC office in writing. Exam distribution procedures shall follow the Test Examination Security Plan specified in the Certification Policy Manual. For individuals with reasonable access to the AFSC office local staff will proctor written examinations. The AFSC **will not** send examinations directly to the individual taking the exam.

General Technical Rescuer/Rope Rescuer I/II Written & Practical Examination References

   a.   NFPA 1006, *Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications*, 2013 Edition
   b.   High-Angle Rope Rescue Techniques: Levels I & II, (Jones & Bartlett) 4th Edition
   c.   AFSC General Technical Rescuer/Technical Rope Rescuer I/II Skill Sheets

For certificate issuance, written examinations must be completed with a score of 70% or higher. The AFSC office will grade all certification examinations and notify the applicant of final scores. Upon successful completion, the AFSC will issue the Technical Rescuer certificate.

RECIPROCITY/EQUIVALENCY CHALLENGE

Refer to the AFSC Certification Policy Manual for the requirements under each of these processes.

CERTIFICATION TIME LINES

Certificates issued under the AFSC Technical Rescuer directive have no expiration date.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

A background check is not required for certification as a Technical Rescuer.

PREVIOUS ALASKA TECHNICAL RESCUER CERTIFICATION/GRANDFATHER CERTIFICATION

The Alaska Fire Standards Council did not issue certification for any Technical Rescuer level prior to 2015.