

State of Oregon  
Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

**NFPA Dive Rescue**  
Task Book

Task Book Assigned To:	
Name	DPSST Fire Service #
Agency Name	Date Initiated
Signature of Agency Head or Training Officer	Date Completed

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Salem, Oregon 97317  
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Additional copies of this document may be downloaded from the DPSST web site:  
<http://www.oregon.gov/DPSST/FC/FireCertFormFree.shtml>

Revised January 2018

# NFPA Dive Rescue Signature Page

A copy of the applicant's training must be included with the DPSST NFPA Technical Rescuer application when applying for **NFPA Dive Rescue** certification. Only a certified NFPA Technical Rescuer in that specialty area may sign off the Task Book.

**Attest:** The information contained in this Task Book is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification of information on this document is subject to penalty under ORS 162.055, et al, and ORS 162.305 and is cause to deny or revoke DPSST fire service professional certification(s).

<b><u>NFPA Dive Rescue Task Book Assigned To:</u></b>		
Signature	Printed Name	DPSST Fire Service #
Agency Name		Date Initiated
Signature of Certified Technician	Printed Name of Certified Technician	Date Completed

**Technical Rescuer Evaluators:** Each Evaluator must document the following information:

<b>Evaluator: Level of Technical Rescuer certification:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Tower	<input type="checkbox"/> Rope - Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Rope - Technician	
<input type="checkbox"/> Structural Collapse	<input type="checkbox"/> Confined Space	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Trench
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Swiftwater	<input type="checkbox"/> Dive	<input type="checkbox"/> Surf
			<input type="checkbox"/> Machinery
			<input type="checkbox"/> Watercraft
<b>Sections of chapter signed off by Evaluator:</b>			
___5	___6	___7	___8
___11	___12	___16	___17
___18	___20		
Signature of Evaluator	Printed Name of Evaluator	DPSST Fire Number	Date

<b>Evaluator: Level of Technical Rescuer certification:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Tower	<input type="checkbox"/> Rope - Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Rope - Technician	
<input type="checkbox"/> Structural Collapse	<input type="checkbox"/> Confined Space	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Trench
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Swiftwater	<input type="checkbox"/> Dive	<input type="checkbox"/> Surf
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Task Book Qualification Record Books (Task Book) have been developed for various certification levels within the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) system. Each Task Book lists the job performance requirements (JPRs) for the specific certification level in a format that allows a candidate to be trained and evaluated during three (3) sequential sessions. Successful performance of all tasks, as observed and recorded by a qualified and approved evaluator will result in the candidate's eligibility for DPSST certification.

To become certified at a specific level, the applicant must successfully complete the job performance requirements in sequence. Before a job performance evaluation can be taken, all requisite knowledge and skills must be satisfied. In addition, all relative task book evaluations must be checked off by the evaluator. When all prescribed requirements have been met, an application for Certification will be forwarded to DPSST. All certificates are mailed to the Training Officer at his/her Fire Service Agency.

### **TASK BOOK SPECIFICATIONS:**

To successfully complete this task book, only an evaluator certified as an NFPA Dive Rescue may sign off on the JPR's. 'Requisite Knowledge' sections may be completed during class and signed by the instructor. 'Requisite Skills' sections may be conducted and signed at the candidate's fire agency.

### **NFPA TASK BOOK INFORMATION:**

The JPRs covered in this Task Book meet or exceed all NFPA published standards for this certification level at the time of this publication. Mention of NFPA and its standards do not, and are not intended as adoption of—or reference to—NFPA standards. For more information on the complete job performance requirements and data, see the individual DPSST Task Book for that certification level.

### **NOTE TO FIRE SERVICE AGENCIES:**

These JPRs serve as general guidelines. As such they are not intended to replace specific sequences of apparatus or equipment operation that may be outlined by manufacturer specifications. At all times, standard operating procedures of the Fire Service Agency in which the evaluation is being conducted will govern. Fire Service Agencies should have available for evaluators a copy of manufacturer specifications and the Fire Service Agencies standard operational guidelines.

**\*A vertical line (|) to the left of the document indicates a change from the previous standard.**

### **HOW TO EVALUATE PERFORMANCE:**

Each JPR has one to three corresponding box(es) to the right in which to confirm a candidate's success. The evaluator must indicate successful passing by the candidate of each JPR by initialing and dating (see example on the following page).

### **Example:**

**18.1.1** Recognize the need for technical rescue resources at an incident, given AHJ guidelines, an operations- or technician-level incident, so that the need for additional resources is identified, the response system is initiated, the scene is secured and rendered safe until additional resources arrive, and awareness-level personnel are incorporated into the operational plan.



# TASK BOOK QUALIFICATION RECORD

FOR THE CERTIFICATION LEVEL OF

## NFPA Dive Rescue

Prior to becoming certified in this position, the sample candidate must successfully complete the following Job Performance Requirements (JPR). For each JPR there are requisite knowledge and skill requirements. The evaluator must initial and date in the box provided to indicate the meeting of those requirements before the firefighter may proceed.

**18.1 Awareness Level.** The job performance requirements defined in 18.1.1 through 18.1.4 shall be met prior to awareness-level qualification in dive rescue.

**18.1.1 Recognize the need for technical rescue resources at an incident, given AHJ guidelines, an operations- or technician-level incident, so that the need for additional resources is identified, the response system is initiated, the scene is secured and rendered safe until additional resources arrive, and awareness-level personnel are incorporated into the operational plan.**

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Operational protocols, specific planning forms, types of incidents common to the AHJ, hazards, incident support operations and resources, and safety measures.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to apply operational protocols, select specific planning forms based on the types of incidents, identify and evaluate various types of hazards within the AHJ, request support and resources, and determine the required safety measures.

**18.1.2 Establish scene safety zones, given an incident, scene security barriers, incident location, incident information, and personal protective equipment (PPE), so that safety zones are designated, zone perimeters are consistent with incident requirements, perimeter markings can be recognized and understood by others, zone boundaries are communicated to incident command, and only authorized personnel are allowed access to the scene.**

(A) **Requisite Knowledge.** Use and selection of PPE, zone or area control flow and concepts, types of control devices and tools, types of existing and potential hazards, methods of hazard mitigation, organizational standard operating procedure, and staffing requirements.

(B) **Requisite Skills.** The ability to select and use PPE, apply crowd control concepts, position zone control devices, identify and mitigate existing or potential hazards, and personal safety techniques.

**18.1.3 Identify and support an operations- or technician-level incident, given an incident, an assignment, incident action plan, and resources from the tool kit, so that the assignment is carried out, progress is reported to command, environmental concerns are managed, personnel rehabilitation is facilitated, and the incident action plan is supported.**

(A) **Requisite Knowledge.** AHJ operational protocols, hazard recognition, incident management, PPE selection, resource selection and use, scene support requirements including lighting, ventilation, and monitoring hazards zones.

(B) **Requisite Skills.** Application of operational protocols, function within an incident management system, follow and implement an incident action plan, report task progress status to supervisor or Incident Command.

**18.1.4 Size up an incident, given an incident, background information and applicable reference materials, so that the operational mode is defined, resource availability and response time, types of rescues are determined, the number of victims is ascertained, the last reported location of all victims is established, witnesses and reporting parties are identified and interviewed, resource needs are assessed, search parameters are identified, and information required to develop an incident action plan is obtained.**

(A) **Requisite Knowledge.** Types of reference materials and their uses, risk benefit assessment, availability and capability of the resources, elements of an action plan and related information, relationship of size-up to the incident management system, and information gathering techniques and how that information is used in the size-up process.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to read specific rescue reference materials, interview and gather information, relay information, manage witnesses, and use information sources.

**18.2 Operations Level.** The job performance requirements defined in Section 18.1 and 18.2.1 through 18.2.8 shall be met prior to operations-level qualification in dive rescue.

**18.2.1 Define search parameters for a dive rescue incident, given topographical maps of a search area, descriptions of all missing persons and incident history, and hydrologic data, including speed and direction of current or tides, so that areas likely to contain the subject are differentiated from other areas, witnesses are interviewed, critical interview information is recorded, passive (indirect) and active (direct) search tactics are implemented, personnel resources are considered and used, and search parameters are communicated.**

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Criteria for determining rescue versus recovery modes, human physiology related to dive environment, re-float theory, topographical map components, hydrologic factors, methods to increase probability of detection, methods to determine areas likely to contain the subject, critical interview questions and practices, methods to identify track traps, ways to identify spotter areas and purposes for spotters, personnel available and effects on parameter definition, the effect of search strategy defining the parameter, communication methods, and reporting requirements.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to interpret reference materials, perform a scene assessment, evaluate site conditions, complete risk/benefit analysis, and select and use necessary PPE.

**18.2.2\* Implement an action plan for a dive operation, given an operational plan and a dive rescue tool kit, so that all information is factored, risk/benefit analysis is conducted, protocols are followed, hazards are identified and minimized, personnel and equipment resources will not be exceeded, assignments are defined, consideration is given to evaluating changing conditions, and the selected strategy and tactics fit the conditions.**

(A) **Requisite Knowledge.** Elements of an action plan; types of and information provided by reference materials and size-up; hydrology; types of hazards associated with dive rescue practices; risk/benefit analysis; identification of hazard-specific PPE; factors influencing access and egress routes; behavioral patterns of victims; environmental conditions that influence victim location; safety, communications, and operational protocols; and resource capability and availability.

(B) **Requisite Skills.** The ability to interpret and correlate reference and size-up information; evaluate site conditions; complete risk/benefit analysis; apply safety, communications, and operational protocols; specify PPE requirements; determine rescue personnel requirements; and monitor and record submerged diver location, breathing, and dive times.

**18.2.3\* Implement procedures for use of watercraft in dive operations, given watercraft used by the AHJ, trained operator(s), and the agency's procedures so that watercraft pre-deployment checks are completed; watercraft launch or recovery is achieved as stipulated by AHJ operational protocols; divers are deployed recovered, and protected from harm; both onboard and dive rescue operations conform with watercraft operational protocols and capabilities; communications are clear and concise; and the candidate is familiar with watercraft nomenclature, operational protocols, design limitations, and launch/recovery site issues.**

(A) **Requisite Knowledge.** Entry/exit procedures, communications techniques, boat anchoring procedures specific to dive operations, and boat diving operation techniques.

(B) **Requisite Skills.** The ability to implement entry/exit procedures and communications with watercraft crew and use emergency/safety equipment.



**18.2.4 Support entry-level dive rescue operations, given a designated mission, a dive plan, safety equipment, props, and conditions consistent with the anticipated rescue environment, so that communication is maintained with divers while they are on the surface and submerged; status of divers' bottom time, location, repetitive dive status, and the progress of subsurface search operations is tracked and documented; skills are demonstrated in a controlled environment; performance parameters are achieved; hazards are continually assessed; and emergency procedures are demonstrated.**

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Support procedures, including search patterns, dive equipment setup, operation support equipment, air panels, and communications issues.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** Basic support skills, including the ability to assist technicians in different water conditions, use communication tools, read dive tables, and record necessary information.

**18.2.5\* Secure the area as a potential crime scene and generate an accurate record of possible evidence and its environment, given paper and pencil, evidence tube or container, marker float, GPS, and last seen point, so that items are secured; possible evidence is preserved by taking notes on, documenting, making sketches of, photographing, or retrieving evidence; chain of custody and evidentiary nature is maintained; and information is passed to law enforcement.**

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Understand and maintain the “chain of evidence,” camera operations, scent article handling and preservation, clue awareness, and specific scene situation considerations (i.e., wreckage, bodies, injury, evidence).

**(B) Requisite Skills.** Interview skills of corroborating witnesses and basic drawing skills.

**18.2.6 Select and assemble PPE to assist rescue divers, given a subsurface mission and personal protective and life-support equipment, so that rescuer is protected from temperature extremes, correct buoyancy is maintained, AHJ protocols are complied with, swimming ability is maximized, routine and emergency communications are established between components of the team, self-rescue needs have been evaluated and provided for, and pre-dive safety checks have been conducted, to include complete encapsulation, including dry suit with attached hood, boots, and gloves and full facemask.**

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Manufacturer's recommendations, standard operating procedures, basic signals and communications techniques, procedures for the use of electronic communications equipment, selection criteria of insulating garments, buoyancy characteristics, personal escape techniques, applications for and capabilities of personal escape equipment, hazard assessment, and AHJ protocols for equipment positioning.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to use PPE according to the manufacturer's directions, be proficient in emergency escape procedures, be proficient in communications, don and doff equipment in an expedient manner, and use pre-dive checklists.

**18.2.7\* Assist a surfaced diver in distress, given safety equipment; PPE; water hazard; and a tired, entrapped, or stressed diver, so that the diver is rescued or assisted, and the victim is extricated from the environment.**

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Techniques for approach and assistance of surfaced victims or divers, buoyancy control techniques, disentanglement procedures, and communication procedures.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to use PPE, flotation devices, techniques for rescue or assistance, swimming techniques, and panicked diver evasion techniques.

**18.2.8\*** Terminate an incident, given PPE specific to the incident, isolation barriers, and tool kit, so that rescuers and bystanders are protected and accounted for during termination operations; the party responsible is notified of any modification or damage created during the operational period; documentation of loss or material use is accounted for, scene documentation is performed and scene control is transferred to a responsible party; potential or existing hazards are communicated to that responsible party; debriefing and postincident analysis and critique are considered, and command is terminated.

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** PPE characteristics, hazard and risk identification, isolation techniques, statutory requirements identifying responsible parties, accountability system use, reporting methods, postincident analysis techniques.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** Selection and use of task and hazard specific PPE, decontamination; use of barrier protection techniques, data collection, and recordkeeping/reporting protocols; postincident analysis activities.

**18.3\* Technician Level.** The job performance requirements defined in Section 18.2 and 18.3.1 through 18.3.10 shall be met prior to technician-level qualification in dive rescue.

**18.3.1** Develop a dive plan, including the projected dive profile, given a pre-dive checklist, dive tables, and a subsurface mission so that elements of the plan, including maximum bottom time, depth limit, minimum reserve breathing air pressure, risk/benefit analysis, hazard-specific equipment, access/egress routes, type of search to be performed, and communication methods, are defined.

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Use of references; use of dive tables; searcher limitations; incident management systems resource capabilities; search technique and theory; SCUBA limitations/abilities; float/refloat theory; and movement of a body, or evidence on the surface, during descent, and once on the bottom in still water and, if applicable, in moving water.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to use dive tables; develop plan; implement incident management; read and interpret maps; interview witnesses; translate information given into a search plan; use communications equipment; define search parameters; determine hydrology, critical interview questions, spotter placement, and strategies; and evaluate bottom topography, composition, debris, water visibility, current, and diver/tender capabilities to determine the safest and most appropriate search pattern.

**18.3.2\* Select and use PPE, given a subsurface mission and personal protective and life-support equipment, so that rescuer is protected from temperature extremes and environmental hazards, correct buoyancy is maintained, AHJ protocols are complied with, swimming ability is maximized, routine and emergency communications are established between components of the team, self-rescue needs have been evaluated and provided for, pre-dive safety checks have been conducted, and the diver returns to the surface with no less than the minimum specified reserve primary air supply pressure.**

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Manufacturer's recommendations, standard operating procedures, basic signals and communications techniques, selection criteria of insulating garments, buoyancy characteristics, personal escape techniques, applications for and capabilities of personal escape equipment, hazard assessment, and AHJ protocols for equipment positioning.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to use PPE according to the manufacturer's directions, be proficient in emergency escape procedures, be proficient in communications, don and doff equipment in an expedient manner, and use pre-dive checklists.

**18.3.3\* Select and use a standard or full-face mask, given a subsurface mission and personal protective and life-support equipment, so that rescuer is protected from temperature extremes and environmental hazards, correct buoyancy is maintained, AHJ protocols are complied with, swimming ability is maximized, routine and emergency communications are established between components of the team, self-rescue needs have been evaluated and provided for, and pre-dive safety checks have been conducted.**

(A) **Requisite Knowledge.** Manufacturer's recommendations, standard operating procedures, basic signals, communications techniques, selection criteria of insulating garments, buoyancy characteristics, personal escape techniques, applications for and capabilities of personal escape equipment, hazard assessment, and AHJ protocols for equipment positioning.

(B) **Requisite Skills.** The ability to use PPE according to the manufacturer's directions, be proficient in emergency escape procedures, be proficient in communications, don and doff equipment in an expedient manner, and use pre-dive checklists.

**18.3.4\* Negotiate a SCUBA water course, given a SCUBA dive designated course, safety equipment, props, and water body, so that skills are demonstrated in a controlled environment, performance parameters are achieved, hazards are continually assessed, correct buoyancy control is maintained, and emergency procedures are demonstrated.**

(A) **Requisite Knowledge.** Basic SCUBA theory (subsurface skills).

(B) **Requisite Skills.** Basic SCUBA skills, including the ability to maneuver using SCUBA in different water conditions, including limited visibility, and apply water survival skills.

**18.3.5 Supervise, coordinate, and lead dive teams during operations, given incident checklists, dive checklists, maps, topographic surveys, charts, and pre-dive/post-dive medical evaluation checklist, so that teams are managed, personnel are supervised, hazards are assessed and identified, safety and health of team is ensured, qualifications/abilities of divers are verified, pre-dive briefing is conducted, and post-dive medical evaluation and briefing are performed.**

(A) **Requisite Knowledge.** Divemaster-level knowledge; knowledge of supervisory practices, dive tables, emergency procedures, communications procedures, local protocols, and pre-dive safety checks.

(B) **Requisite Skills.** The ability to use SCUBA, dive tables, emergency procedures, communication procedures, and leadership and management skills.

**18.3.6\* Select and use dive rescue equipment, given a dive rescue assignment and assorted items of personal protective and life-support equipment, so that the rescuer is protected from temperature extremes, correct buoyancy is maintained, AHJ protocols are complied with, swimming ability is maximized, routine and emergency communications are established between components of the team, self-rescue needs have been evaluated and provided for, pre-dive safety checks have been conducted, and the diver returns to the surface with no less than the minimum specified reserve primary air supply pressure.**

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Manufacturer's recommendations, standard operating procedures, basic signals and communications techniques, selection criteria of PPE, including full-face masks, if applicable, and redundant air systems, buoyancy characteristics, personal escape techniques, applications for and capabilities of personal escape equipment, hazard assessment, AHJ protocols for equipment, personal escape techniques, applications for and capabilities of personal escape equipment, and equipment and procedures for signaling distress.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to use PPE, including full-face mask equipment and redundant air systems, according to the manufacturer's directions; proficiency in emergency escape procedures; proficiency in communications; can don and doff equipment in an expedient manner; use pre-dive checklists; use water rescue PPE, so that the rescuer will be protected from temperature extremes and blunt trauma, the rescuer will have flotation for tasks to be performed, swimming ability will be maximized during rescue activities, self-rescue needs have been evaluated and provided for, and a means of summoning help has been provided; proficiency in emergency escape procedures; and communicating distress signals.

**18.3.7 Manage physiological and psychological stressors in the aquatic environment for the diver and surface support personnel, given a simulated life-threatening situation, so that problems are recognized, corrective actions are initiated, and the situation is stabilized.**

(A) **Requisite Knowledge.** Hazard identification and management techniques specific to the stressors and problems present with the environment of public safety diving, and commonly encountered life-threatening problems in the underwater environment.

(B) **Requisite Skills.** Diver monitoring and observation, communication and intervention techniques, use of diver checklists, and diver recall procedure implementation.

**18.3.8\* Assist a submerged diver in distress, given safety equipment; PPE; and an entrapped, tired, or distressed diver, so that the diver is rescued or assisted, and the victim is extricated from the environment.**

(A) **Requisite Knowledge.** Techniques for approach and assistance of conscious and unconscious divers, buoyancy control techniques, out-of-air emergency procedures, use of secondary air systems, procedures for disentanglement, and communications procedures.

(B) **Requisite Skills.** The ability to use PPE, techniques for rescue or assistance of conscious and unconscious divers, buoyancy control devices, regulators, weight belt removal, communication via hand signals, and emergency ascents.

**18.3.9\* Escape from simulated life-threatening situations, including out-of-air emergencies, entanglements, malfunction of primary air supply source, loss of buoyancy control and disorientation, given safety equipment, a pool or controlled water environment, SCUBA equipment, and props, so that hazards are recognized, emergency procedures are performed, diver escapes from situation to safety, and problems can be identified prior to work in a high-stress environment.**

(A) **Requisite Knowledge.** Basic SCUBA emergency procedures for applicable environments and emergency medical treatment protocols for oxygen toxicity, bends, decompression injuries, and other dive-related injuries and illnesses.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to implement loss of communications procedures; regulator loss, failure, or out-of-air procedures; disentanglement and self-extrication procedures; severed or entangled umbilical or tag line procedures; equipment loss or failure procedures; and emergency treatment of injured divers.

**18.3.10 Perform environment-specific search of the water body, given search parameters for a dive rescue incident, hydrologic data (including speed and direction of current or tides), descriptions of missing persons and incident history, checklists, conditions affecting overlap, pattern selection, water body representative of the AHJ, and safety and SCUBA equipment, so that areas with high probability of detection are differentiated from other areas, witnesses are interviewed, critical interview information is recorded, personnel resources are considered, search parameters are communicated, search is performed, and object is found.**

**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Search theory, environmental considerations, procedures/protocols, hydrologic factors, methods to determine high probabilities of detection areas, and critical interview questions and practices.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to negotiate a body of water, use rope or items in search, and implement procedures for effective underwater communications.