

## **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**

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

#### **Required Manuals**

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

#### **Certification**

1. Upon successful completion of an ERDI course the instructor must 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 Student to Instructor Ratio**

### **Academic**

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

### **Open Water**

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

## **8.7 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

## **8.8 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

## 8.9 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. Gumbo 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

## **8.10 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