



INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL  
RESCUE ASSOCIATION

# Technical Rescue Qualifications

2019  
Version 4



**Swiftwater Rescue**

**Rope Rescue**

**Tactical Rescue**

**Confined Space Rescue**

**Companion Animal Rescue**

**Urban Search & Rescue**

[www.itra.international](http://www.itra.international)





## About the International Technical Rescue Association

### Purpose: Why ITRA

- To promote international best practices and standards for technical rescue.
- To improve the global portability and recognition of professional rescue qualifications.
- To provide local flexibility in delivering technical rescue training curriculum.

### Vision: Our hope

- A collaborative and professional global technical rescue industry.

### Mission: What we do

- Recognise and document locally delivered training according to global best practice.
- Provide Independent competency-based assessment for instructor and technical rescuers.
- Maintain a global central database of training records for members.
- Share safety related lessons learned from technical rescue activities to prevent harm.

### Values: How we do it

#### Accountability:

- Training and assessment systems developed by industry for industry.
- A non-profit entity that is driven by and accountable to its membership.
- Instructors and Practitioners maintain their currency through robust re-certification process.
- Members acting professional and accountable under a Code of Conduct.

#### Transparency:

- Meaningful and genuine consultation with members on our work.
- Active use of social media to engage and keep members informed.
- Annual disclosure of our activities and finances to our members.
- Public register of qualified practitioners, instructors and assessors.

#### Working together:

- To share knowledge, skills, and experiences across all disciplines of technical rescue.
- Establish an international reporting system to highlight safety concerns within the industry.



**About us:** The International Technical Rescue Association (ITRA) was officially formed in Wayne, Pennsylvania, USA in May 2018 by well respected technical rescue instructors from around the world. The mandate was simple, to create a non-profit global body that would allow the delivery of local training standards through a network of internationally recognized technical rescue instructors.

We promote international best practices and standards for technical rescue, improve the global portability and recognition of professional rescue qualifications, and provide local flexibility in delivering technical rescue training curriculum.

Our Instructors have to undergo a **rigorous assessment and re-certification process**, ensuring in-house (agency) and commercial (independent) **instructors are subject to external validation, incident reporting** and as with all our members, a **code of professional conduct**.

Student achievement of learning objectives are recorded by our instructors on a global database which students can access as student members (membership fee applies). This means **students who work for different organizations or are taught by different instructors have a central database to track their rescue training**.

Our secure global database allows **members to validate their training record online in real time**, allowing incident commanders to make better task allocation decisions and for clients to verify instructor credentials. Optional ID cards will be available too.

We also offer **formal practitioner qualifications that have globally set learning objectives** that practitioners can be evaluated to using competency based assessment. These qualifications have three levels and will be available for a range of technical rescue disciplines to provide a **globally recognized qualification that is set by the industry**, for the industry using a not for profit model.

We also provide associate members and higher classifications of membership **access to our global safety database and alert system**. Ensuring the accident of today from the other side of the world, can be prevented tomorrow in your own area.

**With over 300 teaching points, ITRA instructors can teach short or long courses to meet local needs including a cluster of teaching points that can aligned to local, state or national standards** (i.e. NFPA, DEFRA, PUA, NZQA etc). Most training across the world is attendance based and therefore instructors have the ability to record all training given within their scope of approval onto the ITRA database. **No more cookie cutter courses**, Instructor's can select what teaching points are needed and later recorded in the global database, which may work toward or align with local or national standards as well as ITRA qualifications.

Students pay a small annual fee to access their online student learning record (transcript), so apart from being an active member, the **flexible teaching delivery can be centrally recorded at no extra cost** as the instructor enters teaching point completions into the global database. This makes it ideal for capturing internal training, as such learning objectives can be easily recorded on the global database at no cost. Students can access their transcript online easily to validate what training they have undertaken through any ITRA Instructor.

Members will also be able to **see what learning objectives they have not completed in preparation for assessment against global ITRA qualifications**. Once a member has *attended* training for all the learning objectives in an ITRA qualification, they are then eligible for an *introductory certificate* (i.e. ITRA Introduction to Swiftwater Technician) which confirms attendance of all related learning objectives, but not necessarily competence. Where members want to seek a competency based qualification, every **learning objective is then rigorously assessed for competence by an independent ITRA Assessor** (i.e. the assessor cannot be from the same organization or family etc).

Upon the completion of achieving competence across the prescribed learning objectives for the respective ITRA qualification, the member is awarded an ITRA Qualification such as Rope Rescue Level 1 which becomes **the first multi-standard and globally recognised technical rescue professional qualification**. Naturally, **ITRA qualifications are subject to three year re-evaluation** and those holding a full ITRA qualification are also listed on the **public register of ITRA qualified practitioners**.

For instructors there are **no mandatory student packets to purchase**, unless your company produces/supplies/requires them as part of their own administrative processes.

# Rope Rescue 1

## Rope Rescue Responder

100	General	Introduction to ITRA	K
101	General	Introduction to local incident command system	K
102	General	Introduction to local rescue and safety laws	K
103	General	Introduction to local response frameworks and protocols	K
107	General	Basic command tactics and zoning for technical rescue	K
108	General	Knowledge of managing night/poor visibility operations for technical rescue	K
110	Rope	Basic knots for rescue	S
111	Rope	Basic equipment for rope rescue	K
113	Rope	Simple mechanical advantage rigging	S
174	General	Rescue communications (radios)	K
175	Rope	Rescue communications (whistles and hand signals) on rope	K
220	Rope	Independent belay/safety systems for rescue loads	S
254	Rope	Rope rescue hazard identification and management	K
255	General	Introducing Standard Operating Procedures or Best Practice Guidelines	K
256	General	Technical equipment inventories and maintenance procedures	K
257	Rope	Safety systems and protocols for rope rescue (safety officer, checking options)	S
258	Rope	Protection of rope systems (edge protection, hazard avoidance)	S
259	Rope	Selection and construction of single point anchors	S
260	Rope	Selection and construction of multi point anchors	S
261	Rope	Edge lines and/or work positioning systems	S
262	Rope	Personal ascending	S
263	Rope	Personal descending	S
264	Rope	On-rope self rescue	S
265	Rope	Select, construct and operate lowering system - low angle	S
266	Rope	Select, construct and operate raising system (mechanical advantage) - low angle	S
269	Rope	Patient packaging into litter/stretchers	S
270	Rope	Preparing litter/stretchers for low angle evacuation	S
272	Rope	Change over on-rope descend to ascend	S
273	Rope	Change over on-rope ascend to descend	S
284	Rope	Litter attendant rigging and operation - low angle	S
294	Rope	Rope rescue medical considerations (suspension trauma, vertigo etc)	K

# Rope Rescue 2

Pre-requisite Qualification:  
Rope Rescue 1

Rope Rescue Technician

106	General	Basic safety around aircraft	K
267	Rope	Select, construct and operate lowering system - high angle	S
268	Rope	Select, construct and operate raising system (mechanical advantage) - high angle	S
271	Rope	Preparing litter/stretchers for high angle evacuation	S
274	Rope	Knot pass on-rope ascend	S
275	Rope	Knot pass on-rope descend	S
276	Rope	Knot pass on belay	S
277	Rope	Knot pass on hauling system/mechanical advantage	S
278	Rope	Knot pass on lowering system	S
281	Rope	Select and erect artificial high directional	S
282	Rope	Horizontal highline without reeve	S
285	Rope	Litter attendant rigging and operation - high angle	S
286	Rope	System change over - lower to raise	S
287	Rope	System change over - raise to lower	S
289	Rope	Rope rescue physics - vector forces, fall factors, slope loading, T method	K
290	Rope	Rope rescue - system analysis (whiteboard analysis, critical point, safety factors)	K
291	Rope	Pick off rescue - unsuspended/unsecured victim (i.e. from ledge)	S
300	Rope	Negotiating litter over edge	S
311	Rope	Vehicle anchors	S
313	Rope	Knowledge of deadman anchors	K
315	Rope	Load Releasing Hitches (mariners, radium etc)	S
316	Rope	Improvised harnesses	S
317	General	Lockout/Tag Out Systems (including for elevated structures)	K
338	Rope	Compound and complex mechanical advantage systems	S
501	Rope	Knowledge of picket/ground anchor systems	K

# Rope Rescue 3

*Pre-requisite Qualification:*

*Rope Rescue 2*

Rope Rescue Advanced

109	General	Performing technical rescue activities at night/in poor visibility conditions	O
279	Rope	Tower climbing technique	S
280	Rope	Tree climbing technique	O
283	Rope	Horizontal highline with reeve	S
288	Rope	Advanced knowledge of technical rope equipment	K
292	Rope	Pick off rescue - suspended victim (including. from fall arrest or ascenders)	S
293	Rope	Mid-face litter scoop	O
295	Rope	Retrievable rappel	S
296	Rope	On-rope self belay	S
297	Rope	On-rope bottom belay	S
298	Rope	On-rope back up device	S
299	Rope	Releasable/Contingency Anchors	S
301	Rope	Passing a Rigging Deviation	O
304	Rope	Vertical fall arrest systems	S
305	Rope	On-rope: Line transfer	S
308	Rope	Applications and operation of micro-haul systems (Jiggers, Aztek etc)	S
309	Rope	Night Rescue Exercise - Rope	O
314	Rope	Establish dead-man anchor	O
339	Rope	Guiding Line off-set (lower)	S
368	Rope	Advanced artificial high directionals	S
369	Rope	Additional knots	S

*Optional Learning Objectives are not required to be assessed, but may be taught by an Instructor for this qualification.*

# Additional Designations AD

Additional Learning Objectives Available

**Additional Designations** are learning objectives that can be taught by approved instructors to provide further flexibility with course design and delivery. They are not available to be assessed as they are not part of a formal ITRA qualification, but can be added to attendance based courses to maximise customized learning. Instructors need an ITRA Instructor qualification in the subject area and provide additional evidence that they are competent to instruct the respective learning objective. ITRA Instructors can apply for additional designations at <https://itraforms.wufoo.com/forms/additional-designations/>

ITRA Ref #	Subject	Learning Objective	K/S
106	Generic	Basic safety around aircraft	K
174	Generic	Rescue communications (radio)	S
215	Generic	Knowledge of DEFRA concept of flood operations	K
216	Generic	Knowledge of NFPA standards 1670 and 1006	K
217	Generic	Knowledge of NZQA unit standards for public safety	K
218	Generic	Knowledge of Australian Public Safety training packages (PUA)	K
255	Generic	Introduction to SOPs, SOGs, and best practice guidelines	K
256	Generic	Technical rescue equipment inventory and maintenance systems	K
302	Rope	Rigging cross-haul	S
303	Rope	Rigging re-anchor	S
306	Rope	Negotiate deviation	S
307	Rope	Negotiate re-anchor	S
317	Generic	Tag Out/Lock Out Systems	K
318	Generic	Basic ladder operation	S
348	Generic	Single person: lift, drag and carries (casualty handling)	S
349	Generic	Team based: lift, drag and carries (casualty handling)	S
352	Generic	Improvised low height/disaster rescue—two point lower	S
353	Generic	Improvised low height/disaster rescue—four point lower	S
368	Rope	Advanced artificial high directionals	S
370	Generic	Knowledge of distress beacons/EPIRBs/PLBs and satellite safety devices	K
385	Water	Perform curtain capture on tensioned diagonal	S
452	Water	Perform tactical in-water restraint techniques for law enforcement	S
487	Water	Perform hiking pack float	S
488	Water	Perform self-rescue while wearing waders	S
490	Boat	Perform transfer of victim or equipment between boats	S
491	Water	Perform kayak assist rescues (Hook Rescue, T Rescue, Assisted Ferry, Barrel Roll)	S
492	Water	Perform bow/stern carry of swimming using kayak	S
493	Water	Perform self unassisted re-entry into kayak	S
494	Water	Perform kayak deep water rescue	S
495	Water	Perform rescue of unconscious paddler from kayak	S
496	Water	Perform tow based rescues and assists while kayaking	S
497	Water	Perform curl capsize recovery of canoe	S
498	Water	Perform canoe-over-canoe (X-method) capsize recovery of canoe	S
499	Water	Perform tow based rescues and assists while canoeing	S
500	Generic	Improvised (non-mechanical) rappelling and ascending	S
502	Rope	Perform invert while rappelling	S
509	Rope	Rig and operate micro descenders and bail out kits using thin rope systems	S
518	Body Recov.	Rig and manage body recovery bag systems for high angle evacuation	S