

	Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy	
	Course Syllabus	201
Title: Rope Rescue Operations		Program Duration: 40 hours
Type: Campus Training Program (CTP)		Coordinator: R. Chapman

Course Description

NIPSTA's Rope Rescue Operations program is designed to exceed the requirements outlined by the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), and provides students with the basic knowledge and skills needed to perform basic rope rescue at the NFPA 1006 Operations level. Students will leave prepared to operate as a member of a regional team capable of responding to statewide emergencies where basic rope rescue may be needed.

Prerequisites

The purpose of prerequisite course work is to ensure students have sufficient backgrounds to understand the terminology, tactics and practical applications presented in NIPSTA programs. At a minimum, NIPSTA requires successful completion of the following:

- Member of a recognized fire department or brigade
- Basic Operations Firefighter

Attendance

In order to receive a certificate of completion for courses, NIPSTA requires students to be present for all lectures, demonstrations and evolutions.

Safety

NIPSTA Instructors will ensure hazards have been identified and addressed prior to the start of each program. All course safety guidelines are discussed prior to operations and at a minimum, a one (1) to six (6) instructor to student ratio will be maintained at all times. Unsafe actions or behaviors will not be tolerated and will be grounds for dismissal.

Academic Integrity

NIPSTA aspires to the highest possible standards of academic honesty and integrity in all programs as key tenants of the NIPSTA experience. NIPSTA Instructors set forth clear ethical expectations, promote consistency of standards, and encourage reporting of dishonest and unsafe behaviors. While education through participation is the central goal for every NIPSTA program, it is only possible when honesty and integrity are part of the overall mission.

Performance Testing & Evaluation

NIPSTA employs multiple methods of measuring competency subject matter including cognitive and performance skill testing. Cognitive skills will be measured by utilizing a comprehensive written exam at the conclusion of the course. Students must achieve a minimum 70% score to successfully pass the written exam. Performance skill tests measure an individual's ability to perform specific tasks or applications based on given or known job performance requirements (JPRs). Unless otherwise specified, performance skill tests will be measured on a pass or fail basis.

ADA Compliance

Students with a documented disabilities, as that term is used in the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), may qualify for reasonable accommodations as defined in section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Textbook

The following textbook(s) are required for Rope Rescue Operations

- Title: Rope Rescue Principles and Practice (5th edition).
 - ISBN: 9781284195101
- Title: The Essential Technical Rescue Field Operations Guide, 5th Edition
 - ISBN: 9780692901533

Pre-course Assignments

The purpose of pre-course assignments is to ensure candidates are prepared to succeed at the onset of the program. The pre-course assignments for NIPSTA's Rope Operations course are as follows:

- **Review:** "The Essential Technical Rescue Field Operations Guide, 5th Edition"

40hr Rope Operations Course Content

Course content is broken into subject area modules or "Mods". NIPSTA's Rope Rescue Operations program is comprised of the following Mods:

Mod: Introduction & Orientation	Mod: Fall Arrest Devices
Mod: Safety & Hazard Identification	Mod: Belay & Back-up Systems
Mod: Rope Rescue Size-up & ICS	Mod: Rope Ascent & Decent Devices
Mod: Personal Protective Equipment	Mod: Patient Packaging Review
Mod: Rescue Ropes & Hardware	Mod: Low Angle & Hauling Operations
Mod: Rope Rescue Knots & Hitches	Mod: Low Angle Evacuations
Mod: Anchor Systems	Mod: Joining Ropes (knots & bends)
Mod: Angles, Forces & Edges	Mod: Multi-Purpose Rescue Devices
Mod: Single Person Belays	Mod: Hauling & Lowering Over an Edge
Mod: Two Rope Systems	Mod: Litter Basket Hauling & Lowering
Mod: Rescue Knots & Hitches	Mod: Ascending & Descending Ropes
Mod: Personal Rescue Harnesses	Mod: Negotiation Edge On Rope
Mod: Rescue Anchor Systems	Mod: Troubleshooting Rescue Devices
Mod: Patient Casualty Care	Mod: Terminating Rescue Operations
Mod: Patient Packaging & Management	Mod: Course Final Exam
Mod: Prusik Hitch & Rope Grab Devices	Mod: Practical Skill Evaluations
Mod: Mechanical Advantage Systems	Mod: Equipment Inspection & Inventory
Mod: Pulleys & Swivel Devices	Mod: Course Review & Evaluati
Mod: Personal Fall Protection Devices	

Following the conclusion of these modules, students will be familiar with the requisite knowledge and skills needed to perform as a member of a rope rescue team. Written and practical evaluations will be conducted at the completion of this course.

40hr Rope Operations Course Schedule

Day 1

Morning Session

Mod: Introduction & Orientation
Mod: Safety & Hazard Identification
Mod: Rope Rescue Size-up & Incident Management
Mod: Personal Protective Equipment
Mod: Rescue Ropes & Hardware
Mod: Rope Rescue Knots & Hitches
Mod: Anchor Systems
Mod: Angles, Forces & Edges
Mod: Single Person Belays
Mod: Two Rope Systems (main, belay & twin tension)

Afternoon Session

Mod: Rescue Knots & Hitches
Mod: Gear Mastery: Rescue Harness
Mod: Rescue Anchor Systems
Mod: Patient Casualty Care
Mod: Patient Packaging & Management

Day 2

Morning Session

Mod: Day 1 & Knot Review
Mod: Prusik Hitch & Rope Grab Devices
Mod: Mechanical Advantage Systems
Mod: Gear Mastery: Pulleys & Swivels

Afternoon Session

Mod: Personal Fall Protection
Mod: Gear Mastery: Fall Arrestors
Mod: Belay & Back-up Systems
Mod: Gear Mastery: Rope Ascent & Decent Devices

Day 3

Morning Session

Mod: Day 2 & Knot Review
Mod: Patient Packaging Review
Mod: Low Angle & Hauling Operations
Mod: Low Angle Evacuations
Mod: Joining Ropes (knots & bends)

Afternoon Session

Mod: Multi-Purpose Rescue Device (“MPD”)
Mod: Hauling & Lowering Over an Edge
Mod: Litter Basket Hauling & Lowering Over an Edge
Mod: Ascending & Descending Fixed Ropes
Mod: Troubleshooting Malfunctioning Devices

Day 4

Morning Session

Mod: Terminating Rescue Operations
Mod: Course Final Exam
Mod: Gear Mastery: Multi-Purpose Rescue Device (“MPD”)
Mod: Practical Skill Evaluations

- Rescue Knots & Hitches
- Mechanical Advantage Systems
- Anchor Systems
- Knot Passing Operations

Afternoon Session

Mod: Practical Skill Evaluations

- Comprehensive Final Rescue Scenario

Mod: Equipment Inspection & Inventory
Mod: Course Review & Evaluation

Reference List

McCurley, L., & Vines, T. (2023). *Rope Rescue Principles and Practice* (5th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Pendley, T. (2017). *The Essential Technical Rescue Field Operations Guide*, 5th edition. Phoenix, Az.: Desert Rescue Research.

NFPA 1006, *Standard for Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications*, 2017 Edition.