



**St. Louis County  
Rescue Squad**

**Describe Ice Rescue  
Considerations**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: I-201

Revision: 0

Date: 03-01-06

Page: 1 of 2

**OBJECTIVE**

During a verbal checkout with an evaluator, describe ice rescue considerations as they relate to the Water Rescue algorithm. Discuss the environmental factors that make the rescue more difficult, both for the subject and the would-be rescuer. Describe a suitable clothing ensemble for the winter woodland environment, as well as individual and team rescue equipment. State the characteristics of both Autumn and Spring Ice, as well as at least four different weakening factors for ice. Finally, describe proper movement techniques across ice, and considerations for both self and subject-rescue. *NOTE: This is a very "meaty" module, so study and practice carefully before attempting the skill check! See attached criteria list for this module.*

**PREREQUISITES**

Module: *D-102, State Algorithm for Water Rescue; Describe Field-Expedient Rescue Aids*

Module: *D-201, Describe Water Rescue Considerations*

**RESOURCES**

None

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Any Rescue Squad member

Handout: *Drowning Recovery Operations with Ice Component*, WoodsTalk, 2004

**AUTHORIZED EVALUATORS**

Any Rescue Squad sergeant or officer

Any Rescue Squad Water Rescue & Recovery Technician

**MAXIMUM RENEWAL TIME**

3 years



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Page: 2 of 2

**Skill Sheet**

**I-201, Describe Ice Rescue Considerations**

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**NOTES TO EVALUATOR:**

| <b>Task</b>  | <b>Go</b> | <b>No-Go</b> |
|--|-----------|--------------|
| Describes impacts of shocking cold; impacts on finger/hand dexterity, breathing ability (and resulting impact on muscle function), and thinking/decision-making capability (e.g. will to live)   |           |              |
| Describes three layers of clothing; gives examples: Wicking layer (polypro, Thermax, Duofold), insulating layer (wool, Polar-Tech, Polar-Fleece), and shell layer (nylon, Gore-Tex, Helly-Tech, etc.); states contra-indications of cotton fiber |           |              |
| Describes ice spikes, throw yokes, throw bags/bottles, PFD's, immersion suits, walking staff, and field-expedient reachables. Integrates Water Rescue Algorithm into discussion.   |           |              |
| Describes Autumn Ice; states noisy, generally safe for foot travel at 2 inches   |           |              |
| Describes Spring Ice; describes "quiet failure"  |           |              |
| Gives at least four weakening factors; describes "40-percent" and "75-percent" cracks  |           |              |
| States danger of high-speed travel; benefits of walking staff; 30-foot separation; walking softly/shuffling; considerations of safety ropes  |           |              |
| States importance of talking/communication; describes exit direction; where to aim throw-bags/bottles; importance of spreading weight by crawling/rolling; prompt hypothermia treatment  |           |              |

**Critical Criteria**

Check if Go; Circle if No-Go

- Integrates Water Rescue Algorithm into discussion of ice rescue aids
- Discriminates characteristics of Spring and Autumn Ice

\_\_\_\_\_ **Go**

\_\_\_\_\_ **No-Go**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Evaluator**

(Initial & 7100-number)