

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Rope Operations Re-Certification Information

- 1) Recertification is required every four (4) years. Recertification is based on an accumulation of 100 points (training / work experience) which is maintained in department training records. Certifications expire four (4) years after issuance date.
- 2) Certification to the level of Rope Operations
- 3) Completion of refresher training following the established course objectives identified in NFPA 1006 and 1670, totaling 100 points over a four (4) year period, attested to by employing Fire Chief, based on the divisional point system. Point dissemination will be determined by the applicable State Certification Advisory Committee (SCAC). Records of the training will be retained in the fire department records.
- 4) The application for recertification and points tally sheet(s), signed by employing Fire Chief, verifying completion of training points, must be included with the recertification application in the training folder.
- 5) If certification is not renewed within 90 days after expiration date, the individual will be required to complete an approved Rope Operations course.
- 6) OSFM will notify the employing fire department at one year and 90-day intervals prior to the end date of the current certificate.
- 7) When submitting for recertification, the fire chief attests that all the requirements are met and affirms that:
 - a) The applicant is an employee of the fire department, meeting specifications in 50 ILCS 740/2
 - b) The department has training records on file supporting the recertification application and are available for review by OSFM
 - c) The record is true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge
- 8) When all recertification requirements are met, a new certificate will be available on the OSFM web portal

Point System Criteria

- 1) The following training/work experience criteria is allowed to accumulate point applicable to recertification of Rope Operations. A combination of the following sections, adding up to 100 points per a four (4) year period will qualify an individual, who is certified through this office, to apply for recertification at this level.
- 2) All 100 points can be obtained through training or can be a combination of training and "real world" experience.
- 3) A minimum of 60 points must be obtained from Section 1C: Hands on Training
 - a) Each of the training points must be completed each year, totaling 15 points per year (60 points every four (4) years)
- 4) The remaining 40 points can be obtained in any of the other training sections, the experience section, or a combination of both

Section 1A: Training Sessions

- 1) 1 point per hour, for a maximum of 40 points over a four (4) year recertification cycle.
- 2) Training sessions may include:
 - Seminars/conferences
 - College level courses
 - Internet training
 - In-house training
 - PowerPoint/video
- 3) Training must be conducted by a recognized agency or group and covering the objectives (JPR's) based on the approved OSFM objectives (JPR's).

Section 1B: Instructing

- 1) 2.5 points per year, which includes assisting with the delivery of a rope training program.
- 2) Instructing must be conducted by a recognized agency with OSFM course approval and covers the OSFM objectives (JPR's).

Section 1C: Hands on Training

- 1) 2.5 points per year
 - a) Tie all knots, bends, and hitches with the appropriate back-up, in the allotted time, under the supervision of a qualified instructor
- 2) 2.5 points per year
 - a) Construct all mechanical advantage systems in the allotted time, under the supervision of a qualified instructor
 - i) 2:1
 - ii) 3:1 Z-rig
 - iii) 3:1 as an attached system
 - iv) 4:1 block and tackle
 - v) 4:1 as an attached system

- 3) 2.5 points per year
 - a) Construct a mechanical advantage system using a load releasing hitch and raise a rescuer a minimum of 20-feet with a minimum of two resets
 - b) Convert to a lowering system and lower the rescuer a minimum of 20-feet with a minimum of two resets
 - c) Must be witnessed by a qualified instructor
- 4) 2.5 points per year
 - a) Ascend and descend a fixed rope a minimum of 20-feet under the supervision of a qualified instructor
- 5) 2.5 points per year
 - a) Belay a rescuer using a munter hitch, tandem prusik belay, or mechanical belay device in a raising and lowering environment a minimum of 20-feet under the supervision of a qualified instructor
- 6) 2.5 points per year
 - a) Properly anchor a fixed rope
 - b) Attach a mechanical advantage system
 - c) Package a patient in a stokes basket
 - d) Raise the patient and basket a minimum of 20-feet
 - e) Pass a knot in the middle of the system
 - f) Convert to a lowering system
 - g) Lower the patient to the ground
 - h) Must be competed with all knots tied and backed up correctly, utilizing a bomb-proof anchor, maintaining the ability to convert between a raising and lowering system throughout the exercise, and with the use of a decent-control device
 - i) Must be witnessed by a qualified instructor

Section 1D: Experience

- 1) 5 points per occasion, for a maximum of 40 points over a four (4) year recertification cycle
 - a) Actual emergency responses involving rope rescues
- 2) 5 points per year, for a maximum of 20 points over a four (4) year recertification cycle
 - a) Function in an assigned supervisory role during a rope rescue response
 - i) The response may be within the member's home jurisdiction or as part of a local TRT/MABAS response unit

