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Standard Guide for Training for Basic Rope Rescuer Endorsement¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2752; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide, in conjunction with, and as an add-on to, Guide F2751 (or equivalent for other environments) defines the basic training required for a person who participates in rope rescue as part of a larger rescue duty.

1.1.1 Specifically, this guide defines the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for a person to assist with, and support, (under qualified supervision) basic rope rescue operations, including patient packaging, litter rigging, and basic rigging, in conjunction with other rescue duties.

1.1.2 This guide establishes the minimum training standard for an endorsed Basic Rope Rescuer as related to general, field, and rope rescue-specific knowledge and skills.

1.1.3 A Basic Rope Rescuer must work under the direct supervision of qualified rope rescue personnel.

1.2 An Endorsed Basic Rope Rescuer endorsement applies only to rescues on the surface of the land; additional endorsements are required to perform this level of rope rescue in other environments. This guide alone does not define the minimum training requirements for rescuing in partially or fully collapsed structures, in or on water, in confined spaces, or underground (such as in caves, mines, and tunnels).

1.3 A Basic Rope Rescuer is required to have knowledge and skill sets pertaining to the basic roped evacuation and carryout components of rescue. Only basic knots, rigging, and other patient transport skills are required of a Basic Rope Rescuer.

1.4 A Basic Rope Rescuer may be a member of a Rope Rescue Team or Rope Rescue Task Force or Group, as defined in Classification F1993.

1.4.1 Further training may be required before a Basic Rope Rescuer may actually participate in a particular kind of rope rescue team, depending on the regulations or policies of the AHJ.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the*

responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

1.6 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

F1633 Guide for Techniques in Land Search (Withdrawn 2017)³

F1768 Guide for Using Whistle Signals During Rope Rescue Operations

F1773 Terminology Relating to Climbing, Mountaineering, Search and Rescue Equipment and Practices

F1993 Classification System of Human Land Search and Rescue Resources

F2047 Practice for Workers' Compensation Coverage of Emergency Services Volunteers

F2751 Guide for Training of a Land Search and Rescue Team Member

F3068 Guide for Contents and Use of a Position Task Book (PTB)

F3222 Terminology Relating to F32 Land Search and Rescue Standards and Guides

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this guide see Guide F1633, Terminology F1773, Classification F1993, Practice F2047, Terminology F3222, and other references within this guide.

3.2 Except where noted, this document shall use terminology as found in Guide F2751.

3.3 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F32 on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F32.02 on Management and Operations.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

3.3.1 *Basic Rope Rescuer (Endorsed Basic Rope Rescuer)*, *n*—a member of a rope rescue team who, at a minimum, meets the requirements of this guide.

3.3.2 *Rope Rescue Team, n*—a group of individuals rescuing an individual, or individuals, using rope as the primary tool for performing the operation.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide establishes a minimum standard for training rope rescuers in regard to their general, field, and rope rescue specific knowledge and skills. A person trained to this guide is a Basic Rope Rescuer.

4.1.1 Every person who is identified as a Basic Rope Rescuer shall have met the requirements of this guide.

4.1.2 This guide is only the first level of training for rope rescue personnel and, in conjunction with Guide **F2751**, only establishes the minimum knowledge and skills required for a person to perform basic rope rescue. No other advanced skills are included or implied.

4.1.3 In addition to meeting the requirements of this guide, a Basic Rope Rescuer shall also be adequately trained to function safely and effectively in the environment in which he or she is expected to work (that is, wilderness, urban, etc.)

4.2 Basic Rope Rescue endorsement is not an indication that a person possesses adequate field skills or knowledge to make mission-critical decisions. Endorsed Basic Rope personnel are qualified to work primarily in terrain with limited exposure and fall hazard potential.

4.3 This guide *by itself* is not a complete training document. It is only an outline of the topics required for training or evaluating a Basic Rope Rescuer. It may, however, be used in the development of, or as part of, a complete training document or program.

4.3.1 This guide does not stand alone and must be used with the referenced documents to provide the specific information needed by a Basic Rope Rescuer or by an AHJ.

4.4 Though this guide establishes only minimum standards, it does not imply that a Basic Rope Rescuer is a “trainee,” “probationary,” or other similar term member of an AHJ.

4.4.1 Determining the requirements and qualifications for land rescue team members is the responsibility of the AHJ.

4.4.2 Nothing in this guide precludes an AHJ from adding additional requirements for its own members.

4.5 Because technical rope rescue is inherently dangerous, and rope rescuers are frequently required to perform rigorous activities in adverse conditions, regional and national safety standards shall be included in agency policies and procedures. Personnel endorsed as Basic Rope Rescuers shall complete all activities based on an analysis of risk versus benefit, and shall follow all applicable national, federal, state, provincial, and local safety standards.

4.6 This guide can be used to evaluate a document to determine if its content includes the topics necessary for training a Basic Rope Rescuer. Likewise, this guide can be used to evaluate an existing training program to see if it meets the requirements of this guide.

4.7 The knowledge and skills defined in the following sections are not presented in any particular order and do not represent a training sequence.

4.8 Except where a physical skill needs to be shown, it is up to the AHJ to determine the best way to evaluate a person’s knowledge. This may be by written exam, oral exam, demonstration, or by some combination of the three.

4.8.1 A Basic Rope Rescuer shall document his or her training by completion of a position task book, compliant with Guide **F3068**, or by field demonstration under qualified supervision.

4.8.2 Unless stated otherwise, an ability or proficiency in a skill shall be demonstrated for initial qualification and then as often as required by the AHJ.

5. General Knowledge and Skills

5.1 *General Requirements:*

5.1.1 As a prerequisite, a Basic Rope Rescuer shall possess training, certification, or an endorsement in the environment in which he or she is expected to work (urban, wilderness, mountainous, etc.).

5.1.2 For land rescue personnel, training in accordance with Guide **F2751** shall be considered sufficient for meeting the requirements of **5.1.1**.

5.1.3 The AHJ shall verify that the endorsee possesses both attitude and aptitude for working at height, for example comfort with limited exposure and the ability to move safely and effectively over the surface of terrain common to the normal area of operations.

5.2 *Personal Equipment:*

5.2.1 A Basic Rope Rescuer shall carry and appropriately use, at a minimum, sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and rope rescue equipment to maintain personal safety participating in a rope rescue operation. The suitability of the equipment shall be verified by the AHJ to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 5.2.1.1 Head protection (helmet).
- 5.2.1.2 Hand protection (gloves).
- 5.2.1.3 Eye protection (glasses/goggles/shield).
- 5.2.1.4 Adequate clothing.
- 5.2.1.5 Harness.
- 5.2.1.6 Connectors (carabiners).
- 5.2.1.7 Slings/lanyards (for personal use).
- 5.2.1.8 Ascending equipment.
- 5.2.1.9 Descending equipment.

5.2.2 Additional rope rescue equipment necessary for a Basic Rope Rescuer to safely participate in a rope rescue varies by type of rope rescue, team assignment, season, environment, and terrain.

5.2.3 A Basic Rope Rescuer shall explain the reasons to carry, and explain or demonstrate the use of, all personal rope rescue equipment required by the AHJ.

5.2.4 A Basic Rope Rescuer shall be able to inspect PPE and personal rope rescue equipment for the purpose of identifying wear, damage, and operational readiness.

5.2.5 A Basic Rope Rescuer shall demonstrate the ability to perform appropriate rope rescue equipment maintenance