



## WHITE PAPER

July 11, 2024

TO: FIRESCOPE Board of Directors  
23300 Castle Street  
Riverside, CA 92518-2200

FROM: FIRESCOPE Operations Team, Task Force & Technical Search and Rescue Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Regional Rescue Specialists Minimum Qualifications for Machinery Rescue Technician

APPROVAL: **The FIRESCOPE Board of Directors approved this document on July 11, 2024**

### SUMMARY

The draft 162 and CICCIS documentation require all US&R rescuers seeking certification within the CICCIS system to meet these new NFPA guidelines for certain RTF and FEMA team members. Concern was voiced by some FIRESCOPE TS&R Subcommittee members regarding the new Machinery Rescue Technician requirement, specifically the availability of classes and the unanticipated costs associated with tuition and personnel that could burden RTF's if required to send current members to an additional class.

### HISTORICAL REFERENCE

As the job of firefighting evolves, so does the training requirements needed to perform those jobs in a safe and effective manner. With that, the NFPA updates their recommended and required training standards for various positions. One of these updates in the new 162 document is the requirement for Technician Level training for Machinery Rescue. This added requirement affects certain positions listed in both RTF's and FEMA teams in the 162 document. Specifically, the updated document states that these certain positions, "Meet the requirements of NFPA 2500, Technician Level – Machinery Rescue".

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the recommendation of the FIRESCOPE TS&R Subcommittee that current and prospective RTF's review NFPA 2500 Machinery Rescue and coordinate within their task forces or AHJ's, training that satisfies the Technician Level and produce an AHJ certification for completing members. With a 3-year window for completion for current members, the subcommittee feels that there is adequate time to get this accomplished. The subcommittee believes that it is the utmost importance to keep like positions within CICCIS, with the same training and qualification standards i.e., a Regional Rescue Specialist is the same as a FEMA Rescue Specialist when viewed by CICCIS for needs within the State of California.



## WHITE PAPER

### PROPOSED TRAINING

The FIRESCOPE TS&R Subcommittee proposes that RTF's and/or AHJ's refer to NFPA 2500 Machinery Rescue for the requirements of the Technician Level training. Training Managers should also look to material that is already created, such as State Fire Marshal's Machinery Rescue Technician 2021 curriculum. AHJ's can then design training that can be more location specific in terms of the types of machinery or industry they may encounter in their areas.

### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The document will be sent for approval through the FIRESCOPE decision process. Once approved, it will be sent up for ADA compliance and publication.

### FINDINGS

After group discussion within the FIRESCOPE TS&R Subcommittee, it concluded that while there are State Fire Marshal classes that are now coming online, a State Fire Marshal certification was not required for the positions. What is required is the training to a Technician Level as defined by NFPA 2500 Machinery Rescue for those positions where it is listed. This training could be satisfied in several ways, such as through a State Fire Marshal class or through training within ones RTF or AHJ. Additionally, those positions that have this new requirement will have a 3-year period from the date of publication of the new 162 document, in which to obtain this training and certification, regardless of its source.

### CONCLUSION

Given the flexibility in which to achieve this training whether through State Fire Marshal or one's AHJ along with the 3-year timeframe, the FIRESCOPE TS&R Subcommittee feels this is an achievable goal for current and prospective RTF's. Additionally, using material already produced such as NFPA 2500 and/or California State Fire Marshal curriculum and outline for Machinery Rescue, AHJ's have additional flexibility in which to attain this training that considers location specific industries unique to their operational areas.

This will allow like positions within CICC'S to be seen and categorized on equal footing, as opposed to multiple categories for the same position delineated by 'FEMA trained' versus 'California/RTF trained' personnel, which can create confusion and lengthier processes for deployment. Having everyone meet the same standards will give assurances to team members, supervisors and Incident Commanders that deployed personnel will have met consistent training guidelines regardless of where the person received their certifications for Machinery Rescue.

Approved: July 11, 2024