



## ***North Valley Animal Disaster Group Standard Operating Guidelines***

Title: TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

Objective: To provide a structure to apply and maintain status on the Technical Rescue Team

Description:

The Technical Rescue Team is comprised of individuals who use advanced rope and water rescue skills to assist animals (and humans) in need. This time-consuming team contains dedicated volunteers who train together on a regular basis. If you are interested in joining the team, contact the Team Lead. The trainings are NOT open to non-members. Special permission is required to attend. You may attend several monthly meetings to see if the team is right for you before investing personal time and resources into obtaining the minimum training.

Levels: There are two levels on the team: “Trainee” and “Operational.”

- Trainee: New to the team and working on skills to become Operational
- Operational: Deployable in Butte County, and internationally with IFAW
  - Completed the following courses:
    - Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational
    - Rope Rescue Technician – Highly recommended, but not required
    - River and Flood Rescue Technician – Required for any water ops
  - Pass Physical Fitness Test
  - Passes skills test by Technical Rescue Team Leader
  - Approved by Technical Rescue Team Leader
  - Once on the team:
    - Pass NFPA 1670 testing annually
    - Organize and lead a training once a year
    - Attend minimum of 4 trainings a year

Required training: Minimum training is California State Fire Training Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational (LARRO). You may not attend the monthly Over the Edge (OTE) trainings without that prerequisite. The California State Fire Training classes are taught by certified instructors. They can cost several hundred dollars. Your annual training/membership fee does not cover the tuition for these classes.

Water Rescue: In order to respond to any moving water training, or any water/flood deployment, you first must have the California State Fire Training River and Flood Rescue Technician. Member who have previously had Swiftwater Operational are grandfathered in. Refer to the Boat SOG regarding California Boating Card requirements.

Air Ops: All Technical Rescue Team members are invited to the Monthly Helicopter Air Operations trainings. Members will receive limited rescue instruction, and will primarily be used as victims. If the training encompasses moving water, then you must have completed the River and Flood Rescue Technician course to participate.

Monthly Over the Edge (OTE): NVADG trains with Butte County Search & Rescue once a month. The dates, times and locations are listed on the Better Impact calendar.

Currency Requirements: The critical components of technical rescue require that all team members know and trust each other. Therefore, it is mandatory that members attend at least four technical rescue trainings a year to remain active.

Annual Testing: According to NFPA 1670, there is a mandatory Annual Testing that you must pass. This is usually offered around January each year. Preparation/Refresher sessions are frequently offered prior to the testing.

Physical Fitness Test: Being on the Technical Rescue Team is very physically demanding. For your safety, and the safety of your teammates, the applicant must pass a physical fitness test. Refer to the Physical Fitness SOG for details.

Interview: This position requires decision-making skills in high pressure situations, as well as exposure to dangerous and/or distressing situations. Just completing the minimum required class(es) does not qualify you for the team. Each person needs to evaluate their individual temperament to ascertain if this position is appropriate for them. The final step is an interview with the Technical Rescue Team Leader and/or their designee.

For additional information, contact the Technical Rescue Team Leader.

Related Documents Attached: n/a