

# Standards and Certification



The standard that most technical rescue organizations adhere to are created and maintained by the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association). The NFPA *is not* a government agency, thus it has no enforcement powers over compliance to the standard. The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is the enforcement arm of the NFPA standard. In most all cases the AHJ will be the organization that the rescuer is working for, such as the fire department, rescue squad or other responding organizations or agencies. Even though law does not govern NFPA standards, the standards are widely accepted as the professional standard and recognized by many courts as such. For the purpose of Rope Rescue and SAR, there are three NFPA standards that apply: NFPA 1983, NFPA 1670 and NFPA 1006.

## **NFPA 1983**

NFPA 1983 is a manufacturing standard for ropes, auxiliary equipment and harnesses. The standard specifies to the manufacturer how the item is to be designed, its strength requirements, testing and labeling requirements. For the item to carry the 1983 certification, the manufacturer must adhere to these standards. Most rescue teams strive to acquire 1983 compliant rescue gear, however this standard does not *require* any team or individual to use equipment manufactured to NFPA 1983 standards.

## **NFPA 1670**

The purpose of NFPA 1670 is to assist the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to assess a technical search and rescue hazard within the response area, identify the level of operational capability, and establish operational criteria. Provisions define levels of preparation and operational capability and provide an outline of a system that progress from the simple basic awareness level to the operations level, and, finally, to the technician level. This standard applies to agencies and not individuals, so it is the standard that the agency (AHJ) complies with. By having it's individual rescuers trained to the NFPA 1006 Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications, the AHJ is completing part of the overall requirement to comply with NFPA 1670.

## **NFPA 1006**

The purpose of this standard is to specify the minimum JPRs (Job Performance Requirements) for service as a technical rescuer. This standard applies to other specialties as a rescuer, including swift water rescue and wilderness rescue and ten other specialties in its current format. All specialties include two levels of qualification: Level I and Level II.

**Level I** applies to “individuals who identify hazards, use equipment, and apply limited techniques specified in this standard to perform technical rescue operations.”

**Level II** applies to “individuals who identify hazards, use equipment, and apply advanced techniques specified in this standard to perform technical rescue operations.”

The key words in the above level descriptions are “limited” (Level 1) and “advanced” (Level II).

Our Rope Rescue and SAR courses are designed around the NFPA 1006 Standard For Technical Rescuer Professional Requirements Level I and Level II. **Note: a certification from *Randall's Adventure & Training* does not mean that you are compliant with NFPA 1006 standards. To achieve this level requires an evaluation by your AHJ and that evaluator cannot be the same person who trained you.**