



RESCUE WATERCRAFT TECHNICIAN

This is a 32-hour advanced course designed to review and test the skills required to operate a Rescue Watercraft (RWC) during ocean rescues. The course meets NFPA 1670 and 1006 standards.

Agency/department sponsorship required.

Certificate will be issued by CAL FIRE. This is NOT an SFT certificate.

Priority for CAL FIRE / SLC Fire personnel. All other will be admitted pending available seats.

COURSE DETAILS



Nov 16 - 19, 2026



Daily: 0900-1700



Coastal Gateway Room
3900 Avila Beach Dr,
Avila Beach, CA 93424

LEAD INSTRUCTOR



FC Nicholi Mackewicz
805-903-2173

Nicholi.Mackewicz@fire.ca.gov

CLASS COORDINATOR



FC Morgan Rutledge
805-634-8800

Morgan.Rutledge@fire.ca.gov

COST INFORMATION



\$500



Cancellations less than
10-days, no-shows, or
failures will forfeit fees

REGISTER HERE

Registration closes 10/19/26



CAL FIRE/SLC Fire employees:
Registration is not valid without a TR-7.



PREREQUISITES

- 500m open-ocean swim test or an approved equivalent – see SR0/RWCT Swim Test Flyer for dates – email test date to FC Mackewicz
- CAL FIRE Surf Rescue Operations or USLA Lifeguard Academy
- Able to drive a utility & back a trailer
- California Boat Ed Course; bring safety card



COURSE ATTIRE & EQUIPMENT

- CAL FIRE SLU Personnel are expected to wear their work response uniform
- Outside Agencies are expected to wear their work response uniform. Bring jet ski & equipment (3 students per jet ski)
- Equipment: Wetsuit, towel, sunscreen, water, food, warm clothes. Helmets, PFDs, fins, and fin belts will be provided for SLU members



SWIM TEST

OPEN OCEAN - 500-METERS



500-METER OPEN
OCEAN SWIM
UNDER 12 MINUTES



TIMED SWIM
AROUND AVILA PIER



PREREQUISITE FOR
SRO & RWC
TECHNICIAN



REQUALIFY
ANNUAL SWIM
REQUIREMENTS



DATE

- September 28 & 30, 2026
- October 2, 4, 6, 8, & 10, 2026



TIME

0900-1000



LOCATION

Avila Beach Pier
444 Front Street, Avila Beach, CA 93424



DESCRIPTION

Students enrolling in Surf Rescue Operations or RWC Technician must complete a 500-meter open-ocean swim around Avila Pier in under 12 minutes. Sessions include instructor Q&A on swim technique, test format, and ocean dynamics, followed by a timed qualification swim. A passing swim meets the prerequisite for both courses.

Current Surf Rescue swimmers and RWC operators may also attend to satisfy annual swim requalification requirements per SOG OPS #43.

Participants may attend multiple sessions.



WHO MAY ATTEND

SLO County Fire coastal station personnel, US&R members, CAL FIRE personnel, interagency affiliates, and all current Surf Rescue and RWC members.

ALL STUDENTS MUST BE ON DUTY DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TRAINING HOURS



ATTIRE & EQUIPMENT

Wetsuit (Optional: goggles, swim cap, booties)

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REGISTER!

CAL FIRE EMPLOYEES: Training overtime must be approved by your Battalion Chief. Once approved, email FC Mackewicz with the date(s) you plan to attend.

NON-CAL FIRE EMPLOYEES: Students must pass an equivalent open-ocean swim test certified by their agency. Once completed, email a letter of approval confirming successful completion to FC Mackewicz.