



SURF RESCUE OPERATIONS

This course provides students with the essential skills to safely operate in surf and ocean environments. Students will learn basic equipment, resources, and procedures needed to effectively perform surf rescues. The course meets NFPA 1670 and 1006 standards.

Agency/department sponsorship required.

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

COURSE DETAILS



Nov 2 - 6, 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



\$750



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



PREREQUISITES

- 500m open-ocean swim test or an approved equivalent – see SRO/RWCT Swim Test Flyer for dates – email test date to FC Mackewicz



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 or department issued work attire
- Equipment: Wetsuit, towel, sunscreen, water, food, warm clothes. Fins will be provided.

REGISTER HERE

Registration closes 10/12/26



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





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)

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

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.