



# Specialty Response Team Self-Assessment Tool

## *Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Team*

Based on FEMA's Resource Typing Library Tool (RTLTL)  
and National Resource Typing Standards

Version 3.2 - October 2025



Specialty Response Team  
Assessment Program



# Specialty Response Teams (SRT) Capability Assessment Program Self-Assessment Tool



## Overview of the Tool's Purpose

The Specialty Response Teams Capability Assessment Program's (SRTCAP) Self-Assessment Tool is designed to support specialty response teams in evaluating their operational readiness, capabilities, and alignment with FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS) resource typing definitions. By following a structured, objective review of personnel qualifications, equipment inventories, deployment logistics, and operational standards, this tool enables Swift Water Rescue Teams to measure their current capacity against nationally recognized benchmarks for each team type (Type III – Type I). The Self-Assessment and follow-on on-site assessment are administrative assessments only. Future operational exercises will complete the view of the team's total capabilities for certification.

The primary goal is to provide a realistic snapshot of each team's strengths, identify areas for growth, and guide targeted improvements. These assessments inform planning, enhance interagency coordination, and support requests for mutual aid or State and Federal deployment.

## Assessment Presentation and Documentation

Teams will present their finished self-assessment during a scheduled evaluation session with assessors and peer reviewers. This session is intended to validate information, discuss discrepancies, and highlight best practices.

### To support the assessment presentation:

Teams should have all supporting documentation readily available, including training certificates, equipment inventories, deployment rosters, standard operating guidelines (SOGs), and mutual aid agreements.

Electronic or physical formats are acceptable, but documents should be clearly labeled and accessible to assessors.

Supporting materials help substantiate the team's claimed capabilities and ensure alignment with FEMA's typing and credentialing expectations. Supporting documents should be on hand for reference.

### Special Note:

Please do not fill out the Self-Assessment Tool on your Mobile Device. Please only fill the Self-Assessment Tool on a computer or physical copy to be scanned and uploaded to ReadyOP.





# Specialty Response Teams (SRT) Capability Assessment Program Self-Assessment Tool



## Section 1: Team Identification

This section provides foundational information about your team's identity and the typing for consideration. Complete this section with clear and current data, as it establishes the context for your team's readiness and capabilities throughout the assessment. This information is critical for reviewers and assessors to validate alignment with the RTLTT Typing standards.

Please ensure that all information provided is accurate and current as of the date of the assessment. Supporting documentation, such as a current Typing Certificate (if issued by an authority) and a clear Organizational Chart, is highly recommended for presentation during your assessment session.

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsoring Agency or Jurisdiction:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Point of Contact/Program Manager (Name, Title):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial POC:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Is your agency willing to deploy your team? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, are you willing to deploy: ☐ County ☐ Statewide ☐ EMAC (Out-of-State)

☐ Federal

**Swiftwater Rescue Team Typing Level (Select one):**

☐ Type III ☐ Type II ☐ Type I



## Section 2: Deployment/Activation/Callout History

### Instructions:

This section captures a detailed summary of a recent Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Team (Swiftwater Rescue Team) deployment within the past 36 months (up to 3 deployments) that reflects the team's operational capabilities and alignment with FEMA's resource typing definitions. This information will help assessors evaluate the team's ability to mobilize, operate, and sustain technical rescue functions in a real-world incident environment.

A deployment shall be defined as any intentional stand-up and rostering of your team with a clear, documented mission, whether local or state, that functions as a Swift Water Rescue Team.

Provide complete, verifiable details. Supporting documentation should be made available during the assessment (e.g., ICS 214 Unit Logs, deployment orders, mission rosters, After-Action Reports, or activations).

### Recommended Supporting Documentation for Assessment Presentation:

- ✓ ICS-204s
- ✓ ICS-214 Unit Logs (Selected Days)
- ✓ Deployment Roster
- ✓ ICS 201/202 or IAP Assignment Pages
- ✓ After Action Reports (AAR)
- ✓ Photos or Maps of Operations Area (Optional)

### Recommended for the Presentation at Assessment Session:

- ✓ Organizational Chart (reflecting current team structure)
- ✓ Typing Certificate (if issued by state or federal authority)



# Specialty Response Teams (SRT) Capability Assessment Program Self-Assessment Tool



## Deployment/Activation/Callout Report #1

Incident Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Deployment Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Total Days Deployed: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Jurisdiction or Region Supported:

City/County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring or Tasking Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

### Deployment/Activation/Callout Type:

- ☐ Local Mutual Aid    ☐ Regional (Intrastate)    ☐ State Activation (SERT/FDEM)  
☐ Federal    ☐ EMAC

### Typing Level at Time of Deployment/Activation/Callout:

- ☐ Type III    ☐ Type II    ☐ Type I

### Deployment/Activation/Callout Environment (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Flooded Structures    ☐ Swiftwater/Riverine Environment    ☐ Urban Flooding / Urban Core  
☐ Wilderness/Remote Access Flooding    ☐ Dam/Levee Breach    ☐ Night Operations  
☐ Hurricane/Storm Surge Impact Zone    ☐ HAZMAT-Contaminated Waters  
☐ Boat-Based Rescue Zone    ☐ Aerial-Supported (helicopter hoist/recon)  
☐ Animal Rescue Operations    ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Deployment/Activation/Callout Metrics

Total Team Members Deployed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Disciplines Represented (Check all that applied):

- ☐ Swiftwater Rescue    ☐ Boat Operations    ☐ Search (Flooded Areas)    ☐ Safety & Planning  
☐ Medical (EMT/Paramedic)    ☐ Logistics & Support    ☐ Communications (COML/COMT)  
☐ Animal Rescue    ☐ UAV/Drone Support    ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Average Daily Operational Tempo:

- ☐ Single 12-hr Shift    ☐ 24-hour Operations (Split Shifts)    ☐ Surge Periods Only

If surge, what is the Longest Continuous Operational Period: \_\_\_\_\_ hours



# Specialty Response Teams (SRT) Capability Assessment Program Self-Assessment Tool



## Deployment/Activation/Callout Capabilities Delivered (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Water-Based Victim Search & Rescue   ☐ Boat-Based Rescue & Transport
- ☐ Nighttime Swiftwater Operations   ☐ Flooded Structure Entry and Evacuation
- ☐ Medical Stabilization (BLS/EMT-level)   ☐ Animal Rescue and Evacuation
- ☐ Low-Angle Rope Assist / Reach & Throw Ops   ☐ Task Force-Level ICS Integration
- ☐ HAZMAT-Aware Water Rescue (Contaminated Floodwaters)
- ☐ Aerial Coordination (UAS or Helicopter Recon/Hoist)
- ☐ Wide-Area Reconnaissance (Flood Impact Mapping)
- ☐ Coordination with AHJ / Emergency Management   ☐ Daily IAP Contribution / SitRep Input
- ☐ Equipment Decon and Rehab Ops   ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Executive Summary (Suggested 3–6 sentences):

Summarize the deployment, clearly highlighting the team's core Swiftwater functions, interagency coordination, ICS structure participation, and any significant outcomes. This should reflect the team's actual performance and readiness in a mission environment consistent with its typing.

### Example:

*"In August 2023, the Swiftwater/Flood (SAR) Team deployed for 8 days to Hernando and Pasco Counties in response to flooding from Tropical Storm Eliana. As a Type II team activated by Florida SERT, our 16 personnel completed 39 rescues, 12 structure evacuations, and assisted with animal recovery. We operated under Unified Command with local agencies, submitted daily ICS-214s, and supported IAP development. Night ops and boat-based extractions demonstrated the team's readiness and seamless integration with state response efforts."*

## Deployment/Activation/Callout Narrative:



# Specialty Response Teams (SRT) Capability Assessment Program Self-Assessment Tool



## Deployment/Activation/Callout Report #2

Incident Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Deployment Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Total Days Deployed: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Jurisdiction or Region Supported:

City/County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring or Tasking Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

### Deployment/Activation/Callout Type:

- ☐ Local Mutual Aid    ☐ Regional (Intrastate)    ☐ State Activation (SERT/FDEM)  
☐ Federal    ☐ EMAC

### Typing Level at Time of Deployment/Activation/Callout:

- ☐ Type III    ☐ Type II    ☐ Type I

### Deployment Environment (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Flooded Structures    ☐ Swiftwater/Riverine Environment  
☐ Urban Flooding / Urban Core    ☐ Wilderness/Remote Access Flooding  
☐ Dam/Levee Breach    ☐ Night Operations    ☐ Hurricane/Storm Surge Impact Zone  
☐ HAZMAT-Contaminated Waters    ☐ Boat-Based Rescue Zone    ☐ Aerial-Supported  
(helicopter hoist/recon)    ☐ Animal Rescue Operations  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Deployment/Activation/Callout Metrics

Total Team Members Deployed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Disciplines Represented (Check all that applied):

- ☐ Swiftwater Rescue    ☐ Boat Operations    ☐ Search (Flooded Areas)    ☐ Safety & Planning  
☐ Medical (EMT/Paramedic)    ☐ Logistics & Support    ☐ Communications (COML/COMT)  
☐ Animal Rescue    ☐ UAV/Drone Support    ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Average Daily Operational Tempo:

- ☐ Single 12-hr Shift    ☐ 24-hour Operations (Split Shifts)    ☐ Surge Periods Only

If surge, what is the Longest Continuous Operational Period: \_\_\_\_\_ hours



# Specialty Response Teams (SRT) Capability Assessment Program Self-Assessment Tool



## Deployment/Activation/Callout Capabilities Delivered (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Water-Based Victim Search & Rescue   ☐ Boat-Based Rescue & Transport
- ☐ Nighttime Swiftwater Operations   ☐ Flooded Structure Entry and Evacuation
- ☐ Medical Stabilization (BLS/EMT-level)   ☐ Animal Rescue and Evacuation
- ☐ Low-Angle Rope Assist / Reach & Throw Ops   ☐ Task Force-Level ICS Integration
- ☐ HAZMAT-Aware Water Rescue (Contaminated Floodwaters)
- ☐ Aerial Coordination (UAS or Helicopter Recon/Hoist)
- ☐ Wide-Area Reconnaissance (Flood Impact Mapping)
- ☐ Coordination with AHJ / Emergency Management   ☐ Daily IAP Contribution / SitRep Input
- ☐ Equipment Decon and Rehab Ops   ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Executive Summary (Suggested 3–6 sentences)

Summarize the deployment, clearly highlighting the team's core Swiftwater functions, interagency coordination, ICS structure participation, and any significant outcomes. This should reflect the team's actual performance and readiness in a mission environment consistent with its typing.

### Example:

*"In August 2023, the Swiftwater/Flood (SAR) Team deployed for 8 days to Hernando and Pasco Counties in response to flooding from Tropical Storm Eliana. As a Type II team activated by Florida SERT, our 16 personnel completed 39 rescues, 12 structure evacuations, and assisted with animal recovery. We operated under Unified Command with local agencies, submitted daily ICS-214s, and supported IAP development. Night ops and boat-based extractions demonstrated the team's readiness and seamless integration with state response efforts."*

## Deployment/Activation/Callout Narrative:





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## Deployment/Activation/Callout Report #3

Incident Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Deployment Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Total Days Deployed: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Jurisdiction or Region Supported:

City/County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring or Tasking Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

### Deployment/Activation/Callout Type:

- ☐ Local Mutual Aid    ☐ Regional (Intrastate)    ☐ State Activation (SERT/FDEM)  
☐ Federal    ☐ EMAC

### Typing Level at Time of Deployment/Activation/Callout:

- ☐ Type III    ☐ Type II    ☐ Type I

### Deployment/Activation/Callout Environment (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Flooded Structures    ☐ Swiftwater/Riverine Environment    ☐ Urban Flooding / Urban Core  
☐ Wilderness/Remote Access Flooding    ☐ Dam/Levee Breach    ☐ Night Operations  
☐ Hurricane/Storm Surge Impact Zone    ☐ HAZMAT-Contaminated Waters  
☐ Boat-Based Rescue Zone    ☐ Aerial-Supported (helicopter hoist/recon)  
☐ Animal Rescue Operations    ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Deployment/Activation/Callout Metrics

Total Team Members Deployed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Disciplines Represented (Check all that applied):

- ☐ Swiftwater Rescue    ☐ Boat Operations    ☐ Search (Flooded Areas)    ☐ Safety & Planning  
☐ Medical (EMT/Paramedic)    ☐ Logistics & Support    ☐ Communications (COML/COMT)  
☐ Animal Rescue    ☐ UAV/Drone Support    ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Average Daily Operational Tempo:

- ☐ Single 12-hr Shift    ☐ 24-hour Operations (Split Shifts)    ☐ Surge Periods Only

If surge, what is the Longest Continuous Operational Period: \_\_\_\_\_ hours



# Specialty Response Teams (SRT) Capability Assessment Program Self-Assessment Tool



## Deployment/Activation/Callout Capabilities Delivered (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Water-Based Victim Search & Rescue   ☐ Boat-Based Rescue & Transport
- ☐ Nighttime Swiftwater Operations   ☐ Flooded Structure Entry and Evacuation
- ☐ Medical Stabilization (BLS/EMT-level)   ☐ Animal Rescue and Evacuation
- ☐ Low-Angle Rope Assist / Reach & Throw Ops   ☐ Task Force-Level ICS Integration
- ☐ HAZMAT-Aware Water Rescue (Contaminated Floodwaters)
- ☐ Aerial Coordination (UAS or Helicopter Recon/Hoist)
- ☐ Wide-Area Reconnaissance (Flood Impact Mapping)
- ☐ Coordination with AHJ / Emergency Management   ☐ Daily IAP Contribution / SitRep Input
- ☐ Equipment Decon and Rehab Ops   ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Executive Summary (Suggested 3–6 sentences)

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### Example:

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## Deployment/Activation/Callout Narrative:





## Section 3: Administrative Compliance

This section confirms that the Swiftwater Rescue Team meets essential administrative requirements to enable legal, rapid, and supported deployment under state or mutual aid systems. All responses must be substantiated with current documentation aligned with ICS/NIMS protocols, FEMA Resource Typing definitions, and NFPA/OSHA safety and liability standards for Swiftwater/Flood Search operations.

During the scheduled assessment, teams should be prepared to present supporting documents as indicated.

### Mutual Aid Agreements / Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

Does your Swiftwater Rescue team have signed mutual aid agreements or MOUs with:

- Neighboring jurisdictions or fire/rescue agencies?
- Regional or state emergency management partners?
- Agencies supporting animal rescue or water-based rescue assets?

☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ In Progress

If yes, list the primary partners with whom agreements are active:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Most Recent MOU Review or Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

### Insurance Coverage and Legal Readiness

Does your team or sponsoring agency maintain insurance coverage to support deployments in dynamic, high-risk Swiftwater/Flood Search environments?

☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ Unknown

Types of Coverage (Check all that apply):

- ☐ General Liability    ☐ Workers' Compensation    ☐ Auto/Vehicle    ☐ Professional Liability  
☐ Volunteer Liability    ☐ Maritime or Boat Use Insurance  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Carrier Name (if known): \_\_\_\_\_



*(Attach current Certificate of Insurance)*





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## Policies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Does the team maintain written policies or SOPs related to the following items located in the table below? Space is provided to the Team to write in other examples that meet the item located in the table.

Area	Yes	No	In Progress
Program Governance and Succession Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Credentialing, Identification, and Personnel Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training, PTB (where applicable), and Exercise Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deployment Operations Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mobilization Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cache and Equipment Readiness Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finance and Grant Compliance Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications and Technology Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Records, Data, and Public Information Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After-Action Review and Improvement Planning SOP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-Assessment and Capability Evaluation Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuity and Concept of Operations Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Mutual Aid and Stakeholder Coordination Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Program Reporting Framework	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other documents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other documents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other documents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other documents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Section 4: Personnel

### Instructions:

This section helps Swiftwater Rescue Teams evaluate their staffing against the **FEMA/NIMS-typed personnel requirements** for **Type III, Type II, and Type I** teams. Use this tool to assess current capabilities, identify shortfalls, and plan for future staffing improvements. The table provides a structured method to document your team's capabilities and identify gaps or surpluses.

### How to Use the Table

Column	Description
Position	Lists nationally recognized NIMS-typed positions required for Swiftwater Rescue Teams.
Type III / II / I Columns	Shows the <b>minimum number of personnel</b> required for each team type based on FEMA Resource Typing.
Rostered and assigned to your team	Enter the <b>actual number of individuals</b> on your current roster who are <b>assigned and ready</b> to serve in that position. Individuals must be deployable and not double-counted.

### Staffing Strategy and Recommendations

- Teams should plan for **2–3 times** the minimum personnel in each position to ensure operational depth and surge capacity.
- Cross qualifications are encouraged, but **only one primary role should be counted** per team member for this assessment.
- Prioritize redundancy in **boat operations, rescue techs, EMTs, and logistics** roles, which are critical during sustained or high-tempo operations.

### Disclaimer on Double Counting

Important: Each responder may only be recorded once in the "**Rostered and Assigned**" column. For example, if a Boat Operator is also a qualified EMT and Logistics Specialist, only their primary assigned role should be entered in the table.

### Minimum Totals by Team Type

At the bottom of the table, a **Totals Row** reflects the **minimum required number of personnel** for each Team type (Type III through Type I). Use this to quickly confirm if your team meets baseline compliance or needs to build roster strength in specific areas.



Position Title	Type III	Type II	Type I	Rostered and assigned to your team
National Incident Management System (NIMS) Swiftwater Rescue Team Leader	1	2	2	
NIMS Swiftwater/Flood (SAR) Technician – Boat Operator	2	3	4	
NIMS Swiftwater/Flood (SAR) Technician – Boat Bowman	2	3	4	
NIMS Swiftwater/Flood (SAR) Technician	1	4	6	
Totals	6	12	16	

### Team Narrative (Optional):





## Section 5: Resource Typing List Equipment Readiness

This section allows Swiftwater Response Team teams to self-assess their ability to safely and effectively operate in accordance with the FEMA Resource Typing Library Tool (RTLTL). Teams should evaluate the actual deployment readiness of required equipment and whether they can sustain operations in the environments aligned with their typing level.

Recommended for the Presentation at Assessment Session:

- ✓ Equipment Cache Spreadsheet
- ✓ Recent Inspection or Maintenance Reports
- ✓ Cache-Related SOPs or Checklists
- ✓ Photographic Documentation of Cache Condition
- ✓ Boat Load and Deployment Plans

### Scoring Key

- 3 – Fully meets standard – mission ready
- 2 – Substantially meets standard – minor gaps
- 1 – Partially meets – major gaps or dependencies
- 0 – Not capable
- X – Not Applicable (NA)

### Recovery Equipment Per Rescue Boat – Score: \_\_\_\_

Includes victim packaging gear (stokes, baskets, adjustable bridles), animal restraint systems, and means of securing subjects to watercraft during extraction.

### Water Rescue Equipment Per Rescue Boat – Score: \_\_\_\_

Rescue throw bags, flotation aids, paddles, rescue boards, and swimmer support equipment per boat as outlined in the RTLTL.

### Decontamination Equipment Per Team – Score: \_\_\_\_

Includes field-ready sprayers, cleaning agents, containment tools, and capability to rinse gear, boats, and personnel per RTLTL specifications.

### Gas Detection Equipment Per Team – Score: \_\_\_\_

RTLTL requires multi-gas detectors with a minimum capability to monitor for LEL, oxygen deficiency, H<sub>2</sub>S, and CO. Additional atmospheric sensors are optional.

### Ground Transportation Equipment Per Team – Score: \_\_\_\_

Vehicles and trailers are appropriate for moving personnel, boats, and cache. Must meet mission demands for road/flood-prone environments by typing level.



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## **Communications Equipment Per Team Member – Score: \_\_\_\_**

RTLTL requires team members to be equipped with waterproof two-way radios and mobile communication devices with field-supportable batteries.

## **Communications Equipment Per Boat Crew – Score: \_\_\_\_**

Each boat crew must be equipped with interoperable radio communications (including marine band) and GPS/location tracking capability.

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Per Team Member – Score: \_\_\_\_**

Includes dry suits, gloves, SAR helmets, high-buoyancy PFDs (minimum 22 lb.), eye and respiratory protection, footwear, IFAKs, and headlamps—aligned with RTLTL and OSHA standards.

## **Rescue Equipment Per Team – Score: \_\_\_\_**

Includes tools for cutting, breaking, rigging, and patient packaging. Equipment should support confined space, debris field, or flood collapse scenarios.

## **Rescue Boat Equipment Per Team – Score: \_\_\_\_**

Rescue watercraft per team type, with required propulsion, paddles, fuel, lights, and operational capacity. RTLTL recommends a minimum of 1–2 per team based on team type.

## **Team Narrative (Optional):**





## Section 6: Operational and Support Capabilities

Use the scale below to evaluate your team's capability to perform core Swiftwater Response Team functions across technical disciplines. Assessors will use these responses, along with documentation and observation, to verify mission readiness. Base your self-assessment on actual equipment, personnel, and validated training.

### Scoring Key

- 3 – Fully meets standard – mission ready
- 2 – Substantially meets standard – minor gaps
- 1 – Partially meets – major gaps or dependencies
- 0 – Not capable
- X – Not Applicable (NA)

### Water Rescue Operations – Current $\geq 1$ Knot: Score: \_\_\_\_

Capability: Perform paddle and powerboat operations in Swiftwater environments with a current of 1 knot or greater.

Standard: FEMA RTLT Swiftwater/Flood SAR Team (2021), NFPA 1670, ASTM F2890, OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120

Equipment: Inflatable rescue boats, paddles, outboard motors, throw bags, swimmer rescue board, PFDs ( $\geq 22$  lbs. buoyancy), dry suits

### Basic Life Support (BLS) & AED Use: Score: \_\_\_\_

Capability: Provide immediate medical stabilization to victims, including CPR and AED use, until transfer to EMS.

Standard: FEMA NIMS 509 (EMT), AHA BLS Certification

Equipment: AED, CPR masks, trauma kits, responder medical pack

### Low-Angle Rope Rescue: Score: \_\_\_\_

Capability: Conduct slope-based victim access/extrication with rope systems at low angles ( $<45^\circ$  incline).

Standard: NFPA 1983, NFPA 1006, FEMA RTLT

Equipment: Low-angle rope kit, carabiners, anchor systems, helmets, gloves, harnesses

### Search Operations Management: Score: \_\_\_\_

Capability: Manage SAR assignments in a wide/flooded area using coordinated grids or GPS patterns, including animal search.

Standard: FEMA RTLT, ASTM F2890, NSARC CISAR Addendum

Equipment: GPS units, waterproof maps, SAR marking kits, handheld radios, marine band radio





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## **HAZMAT - Contaminated Environment Operations: Score: \_\_\_\_**

Capability: Operate in contaminated floodwaters or hazardous environments using appropriate PPE and detection equipment.

Standard: OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 & 1910.146, FEMA RTLT

Equipment: Multi-gas detector, SCBA (if needed), splash PPE, decontamination kit (pump, bleach/soap, sprayer), garden hose setup

## **Technical Rope Rescue (Type I/II only): Score: \_\_\_\_**

Capability: Deploy rope systems for vertical or technical rescue in Swiftwater-adjacent environments (e.g., over banks, bridges).

Standard: NFPA 1983, NFPA 1006, FEMA RTLT Type I/II

Equipment: High-angle rope systems, technical rigging kits, tripods, edge protection, harnesses

## **Helicopter-Supported Operations (Type I/II only): Score: \_\_\_\_**

Capability: Interface with rotary-wing aircraft for victim hoist, sling, or insertion/extraction operations in water-based rescues.

Standard: FEMA RTLT, NSARC CISAR Addendum, ASTM F2890

Equipment: Ground-to-air radios, helmet comms, aerial signal panels, GPS, sling harnesses, boat compatibility prep

## **High-Clearance Vehicle Operations (Type I/II only): Score: \_\_\_\_**

Capability: Operate specialized vehicles for access and transport through high water or flooded terrain.

Standard: FEMA RTLT, NFPA 1901

Equipment: High-clearance 4x4 vehicles, trailers with tie-downs, load-bearing ramps, floodlight kits

## **Boat-Based Operations Across Multiple Zones (Type I/II only): Score: \_\_\_\_**

Capability: Coordinate and operate multiple watercrafts across simultaneous operational areas or branches.

Standard: FEMA RTLT, NIMS ICS, NFPA 1670

Equipment: 2+ inflatable boats, fuel stores, spare motors, marine radios, mission tracking sheets

## **Animal Rescue Capabilities (Type I only): Score: \_\_\_\_**

Capability: Locate, secure, and transport animals during rescue operations (livestock, companion, exotic).

Standard: FEMA RTLT, NASAAEP Guidelines

Equipment: Animal restraint gear (leashes, halters), animal transport harness, paddock paddles, lead ropes, flotation for animals



## Section 7: Training

This section is to be utilized to review and validate the Team's current and historic training credentials. Use the scale below to evaluate your team's training credentials to assess your mission readiness.

### ICS/NIMS Training Compliance

Has the team documented completion of the required ICS/NIMS training for all deployable members?

☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ Partial/In Progress

Is there a training matrix, tracker, or internal record that can be provided upon request? If yes, what tool?

☐ Yes    ☐ No    If Yes, what platform \_\_\_\_\_

### Check all levels of ICS/NIMS training tracked across the team:

☐ IS-100    ☐ IS-200    ☐ IS-700    ☐ IS-800  
☐ ICS-300    ☐ ICS-400    ☐ Position-Specific (ex., FEMA NIMS 509)

### Instructions for the Training Plan Assessment Table

Teams should enter the number of team members meeting their training requirements in the Number of Trained Team Members column by position. Teams should then enter the number of team members they plan to have trained by position. Teams may add any notes they wish in the notes column.

Position Title	Training Goals 36 Months	Notes	Cost
National Incident Management System (NIMS) Swiftwater Rescue Team Leader			
NIMS Swiftwater/Flood (SAR) Technician – Boat Operator			
NIMS Swiftwater/Flood (SAR) Technician – Boat Bowman			
NIMS Swiftwater/Flood (SAR) Technician			



## Section 8: Exercises

This section captures the team's recent operational testing through deployments and exercises, focusing on those that were evaluated and resulted in actionable improvement plans. It supports readiness validation for all team types and encourages continuous improvement through After-Action Review (AAR) processes.

Teams should report activities from the past 36 months and be prepared to present documentation if requested during the assessment.

### Self-Assessment Metrics

Engagement Type	Count (Past 3 Years)	Evaluated?	AAR/IP Completed?	Notes or Key Lessons Applied
Full-Scale Exercises (FSE)		<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Functional Exercises (FE)		<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Tabletop Exercises (TTX)		<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	

**Team Narrative (Optional):**

[illegible]





## Section 9: Supplemental Information

This section provides an opportunity for the team to highlight additional capabilities, cost factors, and surge resources not captured elsewhere in the assessment. It supports strategic planning, funding justification, and deployment readiness documentation for local, state, or federal missions.

Please complete each subsection below. Supporting materials may be attached or referenced.

Recommended for the Presentation at Assessment Session

- ✓ Capability letters or team highlight one-pagers
- ✓ Cost estimate worksheet or assumptions summary
- ✓ Copies of MRPs (if developed)
- ✓ Photos or short summaries of surge assets
- ✓ Supporting MOUs or specialty team agreements

### Unique Capabilities or Surge Resources

Describe any specialized assets, personnel, or configurations that extend beyond standard FEMA/RTLT typing or provide your team with added mission flexibility.

*Examples include deployable drones, night-vision boats, K9 HRD for flood zones, secondary water rescue teams, helicopter-compatible rescue techs, basecamp trailers, or dual-certified HazMat/Swiftwater responders.*

### Estimated Daily Deployment Cost

Provide the estimated average cost to deploy and sustain the team per day. This estimate may include personnel, lodging, meals, equipment use, vehicle costs, contracted services, and support trailers.

Type III: Estimated Daily Cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Team Size this Estimate Reflects: \_\_\_\_\_ personnel

Type II: Estimated Daily Cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Team Size this Estimate Reflects: \_\_\_\_\_ personnel

Type I: Estimated Daily Cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Team Size this Estimate Reflects: \_\_\_\_\_ personnel



# Specialty Response Teams (SRT) Capability Assessment Program Self-Assessment Tool



Notes or Cost Assumptions:

Team Narrative (Optional):





## Section 11: Certification Statement

This section must be completed by the Agency Administrator, Fire Chief, or Team Leader. The purpose of this statement is to affirm the accuracy and completeness of the responses provided throughout the assessment.

The certification reflects that the team has conducted a fair and honest review of its capabilities, readiness, and administrative standing, and that the information submitted may be used by oversight authorities to support planning, funding, or mutual aid coordination.

Recommended for the Presentation at Assessment Session

- ✓ Signed certification statement on agency letterhead (digital or printed)
- ✓ Original may be submitted as a scanned PDF or attached to the assessment package
- ✓ Authorized signatory must be a designated Agency Administrator, Fire Chief, or Team Leader

### Certification Statement

I hereby certify that the information provided in this assessment is accurate to the best of my knowledge and reflects the current operational status of the team identified herein. I acknowledge that this self-assessment will be used as part of a formal review process and may be referenced during planning, coordination, and deployment activities.

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Certifying Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_