



## Working Safely In Water External training provider Report

### Summary:

The National advisor for Working Safely In Water (WSIW) attended the Flood and Swift Water Technician training course run by the external training provider Rescue 3 (R3). This course is being considered for the initial training of FENZ specialist water response teams as part of the WSIW project. The course content was found relevant and fit for purpose. The training provider was found to be a competent, professional, and experienced operator that has the longevity and credibility to provide suitable training to FENZ. Many of FENZ's partner organisations are using this Training provider and course for their in-water training needs.

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### Program overview

The flood and swift water technician course is the first of the foundational skills taught by R3 in the water space. This course was organised and run for Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) as part of their development of powered flood boat teams. This course is the prerequisite to carrying out the Flood boat operator course under the R3 framework. SLSNZ are building these teams as part of their inland waterway search and [rescue strategy](#). This is partly funded by NZSAR council as part of their [service level agreement](#).

The [course](#) consisted of half a day of theory on day one which covers:

- flood and swift water rescue history
- the R3 history and approach to training
- equipment and equipment standards
- hydrology
- safety
- incident structure

The rest of the course is conducted in the field practically over the next 2.5 days.

### Afternoon day one:

- Throw bag techniques
- Wading techniques



- Shallow water entry

#### Day two:

- Applied hydrology
- Risk identification
- Basic rope rigging and mechanical advantage system for inflatable work platform positioning
- Defensive/offensive swimming
- Entry/exit of different water features
- Throw bag techniques applied
- Contact swim rescue
- Tethered swimmer rescue
- PFD quick release use
- Tensioned diagonals swimmer/inflatable work platform
- Scenarios

#### Day three:

- Scenario work
- Inflatable work platform handling

#### Background

The Working Safely In Water project has been tasked with producing a twelve-month delivery option to make the response scope for firefighters safer when reconciling water incidents.

Part of this involves standing up several teams nationally to provide:

- a trainer pool for the wider organisation
- coverage for business as usual calls that involve water
- a deployable flood response resource for larger scale events

Outside training providers are being considered to supply the initial training for these teams to enable time frames to be met and to align Fire and Emergency New Zealand's foundation skills with those our partner agencies are developing. (SLSNZ and Coastguard NZ are using R3 for their flood and swift water training as are several NZRT's)

#### Course objectives:

To impart risk awareness and mitigation tactics in the urban, flood, and swift water environments.

Structure an incident in water to ensure safe operations can be carried out.

Impart skillsets to self-rescue and rescue others across different incident types.

#### Findings:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[Redacted text block]

**Conclusion:**

This course and training provider is the industry standard for water response training currently in New Zealand. For this reason, our partner agencies are putting their operators through this course. If FENZ does the same, it will ensure the capabilities of the various organisations will interlock which will foster the beginning of a common operating picture. This common operating picture is one of the WSIW project deliverables.

The existing training and competency framework this course can supply will shorten the time for FENZ to provide water incident coverage across the most populated parts of the country and enhance the training capacity within FENZ to further increase its capacity over time.

It is the National advisor’s recommendation to use this training package as the launchpad for FENZ’s working in water specialist water response team development.

Hamiora Taite

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