OUTREACH
RESCUE



RESCUE CRAFT PADDLING SKILLS

Goal:

To develop participants' proficiency in controlling and manoeuvring rescue craft in class 1 and 2 water environments using single and double-bladed paddles.

Target group:

Emergency Services personnel and organisations involved in water rescue responses requiring the use of paddle manoeuvred craft.
These skills can be particularly useful for Water Rescue Instructors who as part of their role rely on using paddle craft as their student rescue plans at water rescue training venues.

Highlights:

- Enhances paddle skills for reliable craft control in moving water.
- Covers capsize drills and rescue techniques within rescue craft.
- Emphasises practical skills and direct assessment.

Rescue Craft Paddling Skills

Course length

14 hours (2 days)

Instructor

1:4

Period of validity

3 years

Certification

Outreach Rescue Certificate of Achievement

Venue

Outreach Rescue, Tan-y-Bwlch Centre, Llanllechid, Bangor, Gwynedd, North Wales LL57 3HY

Description

This 2-day predominantly practical and demanding course is tailored for emergency responders requiring advanced paddle manoeuvring skills in water rescue situations beyond that which is achievable in the time constrains of the Water Rescue Technician award (Mod 3). Delegates develop proficiency in navigating rescue craft in class 1 and 2 water, including judgment of position, paddle strokes, using hydrology knowledge, and rescue techniques. The course includes practical sessions focused on craft manoeuvring and control, capsize drills, and hazard management. The course is run with small groups to ensure that delegates get maximum activity time and personal coaching in these skillsets. Following this course, delegates will be more confident in rescue craft, and have a greater understanding of their capabilities and limitations enabling them to make better and safer decisions about how craft are used for rescue purposes.

Compliance:

Builds on DEFRA FRCO 2025 Mod 3 skillsets

Previous knowledge:

In-date DEFRA Mod 3 compliant award (issued within 3 years)

Requirements:

Age 18+. Delegates must be fit for this physically demanding course involving several hours a day paddling a craft. It is beneficial to have experience beyond the Mod 3 level in paddling craft, either as a water rescuer or recreationally.

Progression:

Recertification is recommended every 2 years by means of re-attending this course.

Theoretical elements:

- This is a predominantly practical course focused on maximising time in the craft in a variety of environments.
- Brief classroom sessions introduce some of the concepts and nomenclature. "

Practical elements:

- Practical sessions maximise the time delegates spend in the craft in the environments.
- Sessions will focus on the minutia of effective and efficient craft manoeuvrability, including positioning, working with hydrology and paddle strokes.
- This then progresses into challenges of manoeuvring the craft, and taking these skillsets into rescue scenarios.
- All technical equipment can be provided.
- This course is holistically assessed throughout.