



To: Emergency Boat Operations and Rescue Instructor Candidates
From: Chris A. Calhoun – Course Coordinator
Date: 11/7/2025
Re: Course Information

Training Course Overview:

This two-day course will instruct the student how to teach the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Emergency Boat Operations and Rescue curriculum. Classroom and practical hands-on training include: boat selection, recommended equipment, boat handling, moving-water tactics, and boat rescue techniques. Students must demonstrate teaching competency in the classroom, and outdoor practical sessions. **They must also demonstrate all practical skills with instructor level proficiency.** EBOR meets NFPA 1670 Technician-level guidelines. Video clip: <https://youtu.be/2lUmCuBD0VU>

Pre-requisite:

- Water Rescue & Emergency Response Instructor
- Emergency Boat Operations and Rescue (basic level) or equivalent nationally recognized program
- [Boating Safety Education Certificate](#) (hyperlink to course information)
- CPR and first aid training
- Teaching experience in EMS, rescue, fire, or similar discipline
- All documentation **must be submitted with the registration form**

Dates, Times, and Location of Training:

September 9 - 10, 2026

- Wednesday 9/9 – Classroom and outdoor practical – start time 8:00 am
- Thursday 9/10 – Classroom and outdoor practical

Location of Course: PFBC Headquarters – 1601 Elmerton Ave. - Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000

Course Cost:

PA Resident - \$450	Out-of-State - \$550
Lodging and meals are not included in the cost. Participants are responsible for arranging their own accommodations in the Harrisburg area.	

Special Note: This course is contingent on water levels at our Susquehanna River training site. Training will only proceed if the water level meets the **minimum requirement of 4.0 feet** on the Harrisburg gauge. If levels fall below this threshold, the course will be canceled, and an alternative date will be scheduled.

HEALTH AND SAFETY Plan – Information will be provided prior to training. Plan will follow universal health mandates and guidelines at time of training.

Hazards of Training:

Students must be prepared to engage in strenuous activities in **extreme weather and water conditions**. Students must be able to swim. If a student has a known medical condition that could foreseeably jeopardize his/her safety during participation or be aggravated by participation, **the student should not participate**.

Water Hazards - Cold, deep, and swift water - water obstructions (i.e. rocks, strainers, free floating debris, etc.) - other water users (fishing and boating) – please be courteous. Environmental Hazards - Uneven walking surface and loose debris - slippery rocks, steep slopes, and shoreline - poisonous plants, animals, and insects – traffic. Weather Hazards - Temperature – hot (hyperthermia) or cold (hypothermia) - Storms – lightening (all training will stop until storm has passed). Students will be directed to shelter. Rain, snow or hail may or may not stop training exercise. Weather emergencies will be handled at the discretion of the instructor/trainers. - Sun – risk of sunburn

Student Equipment Requirements:

- Customized U. S. Coast Guard approved PFD Type III or V with knife, 2 locking carabineers and whistle
- Water rescue helmet – **must provide front, side, and back of head protection**
- Appropriate thermal protection for weather and environmental conditions: **Mandatory - Dry suit** (Note: cold water exposure, immersion, survival, and ice rescue suits are prohibited for moving water). Thermal layering under dry suit - inner wicking material (i.e. polypropylene) - Middle insulation material (i.e. polyester)
- Hand protection for working with rope - neoprene gloves
- Feet protection – river sneakers or neoprene water rescue boots with synthetic or wool blend socks
- Straps for glasses
- Fluids (water or sports drink) and food (high energy snacks)
- Personal items (first aid needs (i.e. inhalers, EpiPen, hygiene items, sunscreen, etc.)
- Towel
- Gear bag and large garbage bag to hold wet items

Lodging Options near PFBC Headquarters - The recommended location would be the Staybridge Suites. It is just down the hill from the office.

Staybridge Suites Harrisburg - 920 Wildwood Park Drive Harrisburg PA 17110

Telephone: 1-717-233-3304 Distance: 1 mile from PFBC Headquarters

Holiday Inn Express East - 4021 Union Deposit Road - Harrisburg PA 17109

Telephone: 1-717-561-8100 Distance: 2.4 miles from PFBC Headquarters

Springhill Suites by Marriott Harrisburg Hershey - 15 Capital Drive at I-81

Harrisburg PA 17110 Telephone: 717-540-5100 Distance: 1 mile from PFBC Headquarters

If you have any questions regarding the training, please contact me at 724.287.8711 ext. 8238 or by email chris.calhoun@bc3.edu (include in the subject line of the email **water rescue training** – I will not open email from unknown senders because of email virus concerns).



NON-CREDIT REGISTRATION FORM
(PLEASE PRINT)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI
STREET ADDRESS		CITY
STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTY OF RESIDENCE
DATE OF BIRTH		SEX M/F
()		()
HOME PHONE		WORK PHONE
E-MAIL ADDRESS (RECEIVE SCHEDULE UPDATES/EVENT NEWS)		

SIGNATURE	DATE
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IS THIS YOUR FIRST CLASS AT BCCC? ☐ YES ☐ NO

ARE YOU A PERMANENT* RESIDENT OF PA? ☐ YES ☐ NO
(*LIVED IN PA FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS)

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE FOLLOWING NONCREDIT COURSE/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR

	COURSE #	COURSE TITLE
	Instate: 160034 / 51631	PA RESIDENT: Emergency Boat Operations and Rescue Inst. September 9-10, 2026
	Out-of-State 160034 / 51632	OUT-OF – STATE: Emergency Boat Operations and Rescue Inst. September 9-10, 2026

PA Resident \$450.00	Out-of-State \$550.00 (check made payable to BC3)
Attached is my check payable to BC3	Attached is my check payable to BC3
Charge to my: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card <input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
Account Number _____	
Expiration Date _____	
Signature _____	

Send all pre-requisite information and payments to:

Butler County Community College
Attn: Maria Chvala
PO Box 1203
Butler, PA 16003-1203
Phone: 724.287.8711 ext. 8355 Fax: 724.284.8548
Email: maria.chvala@bc3.edu

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