

Course Overview

In accordance with the NASBLA Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program, the following outline provides a course of instruction to give maritime law enforcement and emergency responders, **with proficient boating skills**, a comprehensive framework in order to become more proficient with specialized skills necessary to operate AIRBOATS in the maritime environment. A key element of this course will be the preparation of participants to become qualified in the tasks necessary for response to maritime safety and security operations, and Coast Guard/FEMA recognition in the national qualification database maintained by and through NASBLA.



The five day (40 hour) course will focus on the elements in the following qualification areas

Section	Subject Area
A	Airboat nomenclature, Safety Advisories, Risk Management
B	Pre-start, Start-up, Trouble Shooting and Malfunctions
C	Basic Operations, Load Influences
D	Operational Hazards, Transiting inclines, Surface identifications, Dangers
F	Night Operations
G	Maintaining the Airboat, Field Repairs, Crew and Passenger Safety
H	Trailing, Wet and Dry Launching
I	Airboat Rescue Operation Warnings
J	Ice Operations

Method of Delivery

Students will operate within a controlled environment with an emphasis on “hands-on” operational training. The course is delivered using “team teaching” as the model, where all instructors are engaged in every module within the course, under the operational command of a Lead Instructor.

Criteria Performance Standard

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will demonstrate mastery of each of the objectives outlined in each module through a compilation of measures including objective testing, scenario review, class discussion, practical activities and homework.

Terminal Performance Objectives

After 40 hours of instruction, the student will;

1. Recognize and define, by proper title, the basic components of the airboat along with the function of each assembly.
2. Identify, describe, and practices safety and precautionary measures necessary to prevent and minimize or eliminate dangers associated with airboat operations.
3. Differentiate and understand physical and operational characteristics of the airboat as compared to conventional motorboats.
4. Describe and execute proper maintenance, troubleshooting and repair of airboat assemblies and associated safety equipment.
5. Describe and properly execute pre-start check list of airboats.
6. Describe and properly execute start-up of airboats.
7. Recognize start-up problems and properly execute repair sequence.
8. Identify, select and properly employ airboat towing vehicles, trailers and necessary associated equipment to accomplish safe transportation and launching of the airboat.
9. Describe and properly execute airboat trailer maintenance and repair.
10. Properly identify adequate launch sites for the airboat and proficiently execute wet and dry site launching procedures.
11. Comprehend and execute the skills required to operate the airboat in varying surface, weight, and weather conditions, while demonstrating safe boating responsibilities.
12. Recognize and be able to overcome hazards that threaten safe airboat operations while underway.



Target Audience

The class is designed to provide federal, state, county, local and tribal law enforcement officers and first responders in the maritime domain the knowledge and skills to perform airboat operations in a safe and efficient manner, under a national curriculum. Students who seek this specialized training must have advanced boating skills (required) - and some basic airboat operational experience is preferred, but not a prerequisite.

Course Structure

The course consists of instructor lecture, which will be aided (and assisted) by slide presentations, class interaction, practical exercises, a knowledge test and final exam. The instructor will emphasize student interaction and discussion throughout the course to ensure that the information taught is being understood and can be applied in a real-world environment.

Class Size/Student to Instructor Ratio

The minimum class size is 6 students; the maximum class number is 15. Instructors will meet a maximum of 3 students per instructor for each class (3 to 1 Student to Instructor Ratio). This is dependent on vessels provided by the agencies. The Program Manager will evaluate platforms prior to the course delivery to determine final student to instructor ratio. Safety may dictate 2 to 1 Student to Instructor ratio.

Course Requirements and Materials Provided

Students will be required to bring appropriate foul weather gear, glasses, sunscreen and appropriate clothing for the climate at the time of the training, with consideration for extended operational training days.

Agencies participating/attending the training will provide one airboat for every 1 to 3 students it is sending to the training in order for all to have adequate operational time to learn and apply the skills within a “hands on” learning environment.

NASBLA will provide each student with a “Student Handbook” complete with every slide and reference material they can use for future application and reference. Additionally, students who would like copies of the modules will be allowed access to the “Instructor Portal” to facilitate the sharing of information.

NASBLA will, within 30 days of successful completion of the course, issue a certificate from NASBLA’s National Headquarters in Lexington, KY and the attendees will be entered into a national database of trained Airboat Operators.



Course Cost

The fee for the five day 40 hour course is \$32,000 for a maximum of 15 students, (or \$2,150.00 per student) with a minimum of 6 students and covers all administration, coordination, student materials (handbooks, practical exercises) and instructor costs including travel, per diem, and lodging.

CONTACT INFORMATION

David M. Considine, National Director
NASBLA Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program
(o) 859.225.9487 (m) 978.314.1839 (e) Dave.Considine@nasbla.org (w) www.nasbla.org/BOAT



Airboat Operators Course Outline

Curriculum Schedule:

Day One: Classroom		
1.1	Introduction and Nomenclature	0.5
1.2	Trailing, Short Tows, Long Tows – wet and dry launch techniques	0.5
1.3	Safety, Pre-start checklist, Active Inspection, Start-up, Shut-down, Troubleshooting	1.0
1.4	Pre-warning for operators, Crew Responsibility, Getting Underway, Underway Precautions,	1.0
1.5	Mitigating Hazards, Un-sticking, Swamping	1.0
1.6	Operations in close proximity to other airboats, airboat formations, operating airboat at night	1.0
1.7	Maintenance, Malfunctions, Repairs,	1.0
1.8	Safety Advisories	0.5
1.9	Introduction to the Airboat, Pre-start, Start-up, Shutdown Procedures, Maintenance demonstration, Safety Review	1.5
TOTAL		8

Day Two: Field Operation		
2.1	Emergency medical plan, On-scene Commander authority	0.5
2.2	Perform pre-start inspection, launch airboat, stern wave management, low power maneuvering	1.5
2.3	Docking procedures	1.0
2.4	Dock departures, managing trailing wave, navigate a designated course	1.0
2.5	Dock departure, turns within a designated course in close proximity of other vessels	1.5
2.6	Operations on plane, developing power control within a designated course, Deep water operations	1.5
2.7	Docking drills, loading to trailer, shutdown and post operations.	1.0
TOTAL		8



Airboat Operators Course Outline

Day Three: Field Operations		
3.1	Emergency medical plan, On-scene Commander authority	0.5
3.2	Launch and Docking drills, Retrieve crew members, Evasive maneuvers in deepwater (or ice) (Student 1)	1.5
3.3	Launch and Docking drills, Retrieve crew members, Evasive maneuvers in deepwater (or ice) (Student 2)	1.5
3.4	Introduction to training course – deepwater, marsh environment, or ice maneuvering under instruction	1.5
3.5	Dry land running, Slip and Slide and Spray and Go techniques	1.5
3.6	Wave crossing, dry/moist surface crossing, Soap Spray	1.5
TOTAL		8

Day Four: Field Operations		
4.1	Route running drills, Collision avoidance, Fixed object avoidance	2.0
4.2	Restrictive surfaces	1.0
4.3	Inclines, Sloped surfaces	1.0
4.4	Docking, Trailer recovery, Launching, Designated course travel	1.5
4.5	Open march running, pothole transiting, deep water, evasive maneuvering	1.5
4.6	Solo operations, transitions from dry to wet (or ice) environment	1.0
4.7	Night operations	3.0
TOTAL		11

Day Five: Field Operations and Testing		
5.1	Demonstrate – Pre-launch, Launch, conduct operations as directed by On-Scene Commander	2.0
5.2	Demonstrate transitions from wet dry environment (or ice), inclines, slip and slide, trouble shooting, field maintenance	1.5
5.3	Demonstrate shallow water operations wet/dry (or ice) transitions, recovery and trailering	1.5
5.4	Final Exam administered, Evaluations and Hotwash	3.0
TOTAL		8