

Instructor Hierarchy

American Red Cross courses vary in the level of knowledge, skills and content as do the instructor certifications required to teach these courses. As a result, instructors, with specific certifications, can teach other courses the Red Cross offers after completing a self-orientation to the course and the course materials (as indicated by a “Yes” in the chart below). In other cases, instructors, who have certain certifications, qualify to participate in an abbreviated instructor bridge course to become certified to teach other Red Cross programs. See the chart below for the hierarchy of certifications and check the Red Cross Learning Center page at www.redcrosslearningcenter.org/s/bridging for information about specific bridge courses.

Basic-Level Courses	American Red Cross Instructor Certification							
	Emergency Medical Response Instructor	Lifeguarding Instructor	Basic Life Support Instructor	CPR for Pro. Rescuers Instructor	First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor	Water Safety Instructor	Advanced Life Support Instructor	Pediatric Advanced Life Support Instructor
Administering Emergency Oxygen (AEO)	Yes	With cert in AEO	Yes	With cert in AEO	No	No	Yes	Yes
Advanced Life Support	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Anaphylaxis & Epinephrine Auto-Injector	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Asthma Inhaler Training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Babysitter’s Training	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	No	No	Online Bridge	No	Bridge after meeting requirements to teach FA/CPR/AED	Bridge after meeting requirements to teach FA/CPR/AED
Basic Life Support	Yes	Online Bridge	Yes	Online Bridge	No	No	With cert in BLS	With cert in BLS
Bloodborne Pathogens Training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
California Child Care	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
CPR for Professional Rescuers	Yes	Yes	Online Bridge	Yes	Bridge with cert in CPRO	No	Yes	Yes

Basic-Level Courses	American Red Cross Instructor Certification Certifications							
	Emergency Medical Response Instructor	Lifeguarding Instructor	Basic Life Support Instructor	CPR for Pro. Rescuers Instructor	First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor	Water Safety Instructor	Advanced Life Support Instructor	Pediatric Advanced Life Support Instructor
Emergency Medical Response	Yes	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO	No	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO
First Aid/CPR/AED (lay responder) Adult CPR, Child CPR, Infant CPR, Adult AED, Child AED, Infant AED, First Aid, BBP, Epinephrine Auto-Injector, Asthma, Using a Tourniquet	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	With basic-level certification in First Aid or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer	Online Bridge	Yes	No	With a basic or instructor level certification in BLS plus one of the following: A basic-level certification in First Aid (or equivalent) or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer	With a basic or instructor level certification in BLS plus one of the following: A basic-level certification in First Aid (or equivalent) or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer
First Aid for Public Safety Personnel (California Title 22)	Yes	Yes	If also an instructor in First Aid/CPR/AED and hold basic-level certification in FAPSP	If also an instructor in First Aid/CPR/AED and hold basic-level certification in FAPSP	If also an instructor in Basic Life Support or CPR for the Professional Rescuer	Yes	If also an instructor in First Aid/CPR/AED and Basic Life Support or CPR for the Professional Rescuer	If also an instructor in First Aid/CPR/AED and Basic Life Support or CPR for the Professional Rescuer
Hands-Only CPR – no instructor requirement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Learn-to-Swim	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

Basic-Level Courses	American Red Cross Instructor Certification							
	Emergency Medical Response Instructor	Lifeguarding Instructor	Basic Life Support Instructor	CPR for Pro. Rescuers Instructor	First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor	Water Safety Instructor	Advanced Life Support Instructor	Pediatric Advanced Life Support Instructor
Lifeguarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aquatic Attraction LG ▪ Shallow Water LG ▪ Lifeguarding ▪ Waterpark Skills ▪ Waterfront ▪ CPRO ▪ AEO with basic-level cert only 	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Longfellow's WHALE Tales – no instructor requirement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pediatric Advanced Life Support	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Responding to Emergencies	Online Bridge for FA/CPR/AED Instructor	Online Bridge for FA/CPR/AED Instructor	No	No	Yes	No	See requirements for teaching FA/CPR/AED on page 2.	See requirements for teaching FA/CPR/AED on page 2.
Safety Training for Swim Coaches	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Small Craft Safety	No	Bridge to specialty area*	No	No	No	Bridge to specialty area*	No	No
Water Safety presentations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wilderness & Remote First Aid	Bridge	Bridge	No	Bridge with basic-certification in Wilderness and Remote First Aid	Bridge	Bridge with basic-certification in Wilderness and Remote First Aid	Bridge after meeting requirements to teach FA/CPR/AED	Bridge after meeting requirements to teach FA/CPR/AED

Wilderness & Remote First Aid Instructors (WFRA) are only certified to teach WFRA. Basic Water Rescue Instructors are only certified to teach Basic Water Rescue.

*Basic Water Rescue, Lifeguarding and Water Safety Instructors may qualify to bridge to teach specialty course(s) in Small Craft Safety. See Small Craft Safety Instructor Notes on Instructor's Corner.

Instructor Trainer Hierarchy

Instructor trainers who have certain certifications qualify to participate in an abbreviated online instructor trainer bridge course to become certified to teach other Red Cross instructor programs. Use the Instructor Trainer column to identify the instructor courses an Instructor Trainer can teach. Check Instructor’s Corner/Instructor Lifecycle/Bridging for information about specific qualifications, bridge courses, and instructions to apply and access bridges.

Instructor Courses	American Red Cross Instructor Trainer Certifications							
	EMR IT	Basic Life Support IT	Lifeguarding IT	CPR for Professional Rescuers IT	First Aid/CPR/AED IT	Water Safety IT	Advanced Life Support IT	Pediatric Advanced Life Support IT
Advanced Life Support Instructor	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Basic Life Support Instructor	Online Bridge	Yes	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	No	Online Bridge	Online Bridge
CPR for Professional Rescuers Instructor	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Online Bridge	Online Bridge
Emergency Medical Response Instructor	Yes	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	No	Online Bridge	Online Bridge
First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor	Online Bridge	With basic-level certification in First Aid or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	Yes	No	With a basic or instructor level certification in Basic Life Support plus one of the following: A basic-level certification in First Aid or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer	With a basic or instructor level certification in Basic Life Support plus one of the following: A basic-level certification in First Aid or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer
Lifeguarding Instructor	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Pediatric Advanced Life Support Instructor	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Water Safety Instructor	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Basic Swim Instructor	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

Babysitter’s Training instructor trainers can teach Babysitter’s Training Instructor courses. Basic Water Rescue instructor trainers can teach Basic Water Rescue Instructor courses. Wilderness & Remote First Aid instructor trainers can teach Wilderness & Remote First Aid Instructor courses.