40865 Respond to rope rescue incidents

Kaupae | Level	4
Whiwhinga | Credit	10
Whāinga | Purpose	This skill standard is for people who are required to respond to rope rescue incidents. People credited with this skill standard are able to: perform double line rope rescue techniques in a vertical environment; access and stabilise a casualty in a low angle environment; demonstrate advanced descent and ascent-based techniques in a high angle environment; and perform descender based (pick off) rescue to evacuate casualty from a high angle environment using double line technique. This skill standard can be used for assessment within qualifications across the Emergency Management sector.
Whakaakoranga me mātua oti | Pre-requisites	Unit standard 6400, *Manage first aid in an emergency situation* or Unit standard 23406, *Provide first aid for trauma and medical emergency situations*; Unit standard 6401, *Provide first aid*; Unit standard 6402, *Provide basic life* support; and Skill standard 40864, *Support rope rescue operations;* or equivalent knowledge and skill.

Hua o te ako me Paearu aromatawai \| Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Hua o te ako | Learning outcomes	**Paearu aromatawai |** Assessment criteria
1. Perform double line rope rescue techniques in a vertical environment.	a. Stop and lock off during a descent or lower.
	b. Rig and manage an independent safety rope to a rescuer.
	c. Rig a rescuer recovery system to raise and lower the rescuer.
2. Access and stabilise a casualty in a low angle environment.	a. Locate and access a casualty.
	b. Assess a casualty, provide basic first aid and request further medical support where required.
	c. Prepare a casualty for transportation.
	d. Transport a casualty safely.
	e. Undertake a casualty handover.

Hua o te ako | Learning outcomes	**Paearu aromatawai |** Assessment criteria
3. Demonstrate advanced descent and ascent-based techniques in a high angle environment.	a. Perform a knot pass through descender without assistance from a second rope.
	b. Perform a knot pass (obstruction) through ascent rig without assistance from a second rope.
	c. Demonstrate safe use of belay techniques.
	d. Undertake changeovers between descent to ascent and ascent to descent.
4. Perform descender based (pick off) rescue to evacuate a casualty from a high angle environment using double line technique.	a. Rig and check an anchor system to cater for two-person loading.
	b. Locate and access a casualty.
	c. Assess a casualty, provide basic first aid and request further medical support where required.
	d. Prepare a casualty for evacuation from high angle environment.
	e. Evacuate a casualty to safe area.
	f. Conduct a casualty handover to rescue or medical staff.

Pārongo aromatawai me te taumata paearu | Assessment information and grade criteria

Assessment specifications:

- Assessment of this standard must be consistent with:
  - current legislation;
  - organisation's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Assessment must align with current best practice as described in industry manuals and texts. Various examples are listed to the resources section below.
- This standard may be assessed when the learner manages a top controlled moving rope or when the learner descends on a static fixed rope. It is expected that the learner will use the rope rescue method required by their organisation.
- Practical high angle sites during assessment are to be between 8 and 40 metres only and 60 degrees or more.
- Learning outcome 3 – includes double line technique and high angle.
- Assessment criteria 3a – two points of contact must be maintained for duration of exposure.
- Assessment criteria 4d – includes suitable means to secure the patient such as victim harness or rescue strop/nappy.

Definitions:

- *Casualty* refers to the person requiring rescue.
- *Double line technique* includes single line technique with independent safety or a twin tensioned rope system.
- *First aid or basic life support methods* refers to the first aid a person, with a current first aid certificate (including unit standards 6401 and 6402), is trained to provide.
- *High angle* defines an environment in which one must be secured with rope and other safety equipment to keep from falling from a height at more than 60 degrees.
- *Rope rescue* is a generic term that has been used to subsume the terms high angle rescue, low angle, line rescue, and vertical rescue.
- *Vertical environment* includes steep and high angle environments.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved.

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Access and stabilise casualty

- Preparation of casualty for handover and relevant casualty briefs.
- Emotionally stabilise: psychological first aid, and communication of rescue methods and providing clear instructions.

Advanced descent and ascent-based techniques

- Knot pass, changeovers, redirection, and re-anchor (changing or creating a new anchor point) performed through mechanical personal ascent rig and hands-free mechanical descender.
- Belay techniques: self, and independent top.

Descender based rescue

- Descend to casualty.
- Protect casualty from hazards.
- Preparation for evacuation: casualty communication, rescue strop, jigger or pick off strap (or similar) connection, rigging check, and confirmation of plan with command.
- Evacuation of casualty: pick off rescue, abseil to the ground with rescuer and casualty (two people), prevention of further injury to casualty, and communication with casualty.
- Preparation of casualty for handover: casualty records, casualty briefs, and casualty handling.

Rauemi | Resources

Where the resources have been updated, please refer to the latest version.

- Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002. https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0033/latest/whole.html.
- Delaney, R. (2022). *Physics for roping technicians*. https://www.ropelab.com.au/files/physics.pdf.
- Frank, J. A [Ed]. (2021*). CMC rope rescue technician manual* (6th ed.). https://www.cmcpro.com/equipment/rope-rescue-manual/#learn_more.

- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. Parliamentary Council Office, Te Tari Tohutohu Parēmata. https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2015/0070/latest/DLM5976660.html.
- Prattley, G. (2020). *Rope rescue and rigging: Field guide*. Over The Edge Rescue.
- Rigging Lab. Free resources. https://rigginglabacademy.com/resources/.
- Rhodes, P. (2020). *A practitioner's study: About rope rescue rigging* (2nd ed). Rhodes.
- Rhodes, P. (2020). *A practitioner's study – volume 2: Confined space rescue considerations for industry, construction and fire/rescue.* Rhodes.
- Rhodes, P. (2019). *A practitioner's study – volume 3: Minimalist wilderness rigging REMS and search and rescue rope rescue skills*. Rhodes.
- Worksafe. (2019). *Best practice guidelines for working at height in New Zealand.* https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/working-at-height/working-at-height-in-nz/.

Pārongo Whakaū Kounga | Quality assurance information

Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa | Standard Setting Body	Toitū te Waiora Community, Health, Education, and Social Services Workforce Development Council
Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai | DASS classification	Community and Social Services > Specialist Rescue > Rope Rescue
Ko te tohutoro ki ngā Whakaritenga i te Whakamanatanga me te Whakaōritenga | CMR	0024

Hātepe | Process	**Putanga |** Version	**Rā whakaputa |** Review Date	**Rā whakamutunga mō te aromatawai |** Last date for assessment
Rēhitatanga | Registration	1	25 September 2025	N/A
Kōrero whakakapinga | Replacement information	NA		
Rā arotake | Planned review date	31 December 2030		

Please contact Toitū te Waiora Community, Health, Education, and Social Services Workforce Development Council at qualifications@toitutewaiora.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.