
CAVING
Demonstrate basic caving skills

level:	2
credit:	5
planned review date:	October 2008
sub-field:	Outdoor Recreation
replacement information:	This unit standard, unit standard 20129 and unit standard 20130 replaced unit standard 449.
purpose:	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate an understanding of different cave environments and cave trip management; and demonstrate caving techniques in a caving environment and cave navigation skills.
entry information:	Open.
accreditation option:	Evaluation of documentation by NZQA and industry.
moderation option:	A centrally established and directed national moderation system has been set up by the Sport, Fitness and Recreation Industry Training Organisation – Outdoor Recreation Advisory Group.
special notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 For assessment purposes five caving trips, each caving taking a minimum of four hours, are required.2 The candidate will undertake caving trips as a supervised group member.3 The candidate is not required to rig rope systems.4 All activities must comply with any relevant environmental, legislative and/or regulatory requirements set out in the <i>New Zealand Environmental Care Code</i>, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act 2001, and their subsequent amendments. The <i>New Zealand Environmental Care Code</i> is available from the Department of Conservation, Head Office, PO Box 10420, Wellington.

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- 5 There are minimum assessor requirements for assessment against this unit standard. The details of these requirements are available on the Sfrito website <http://www.sfrito.org.nz/>.

Elements and Performance Criteria

element 1

Demonstrate an understanding of different cave environments.

performance criteria

- 1.1 Caving environments are described.

Range: cave evolution, speleothems, fauna, flora at the cave entrance.

element 2

Demonstrate an understanding of cave trip management.

performance criteria

- 2.1 A conservation plan to minimise human impact is described.

Range: may include but is not limited to – choice of cave, route selection, care of speleothems, care of flora and fauna, mud management, preventing damage, waste management.

- 2.2 The importance of informing a responsible person of trip details and checking out is explained.

- 2.3 A relationship of mutual respect is facilitated between the landowner and the caver regarding cave access.

- 2.4 The potential natural hazards in caving environments are identified and techniques to lessen the hazards are explained.

Range: range may include but is not limited to – water hazards, cold, fatigue, loose terrain, restricted spaces, slippery surfaces.

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2.5 Knowledge of the safety characteristics and care of personal and group caving equipment and clothing is demonstrated.

Range: may include but is not limited to – helmet, light, secondary light source, protective clothing and footwear, first aid kit, spare clothing, food, hot drink, lighting repair.

2.6 Knowledge of appropriate behaviour when emergencies occur is demonstrated.

Range: may include but is not limited to – floods, getting lost (above or below ground), hypothermia, entrapment (stuck in a squeeze).

element 3

Demonstrate caving techniques in a caving environment.

performance criteria

3.1 Knots used for attachment to a belay system are tied.

Range: may include but is not limited to – figure-eight on a bight, bowline.

3.2 Care for the environment is demonstrated based on the described conservation plan in performance criterion 2.1.

3.3 Efficient and safe movement within a cave environment is demonstrated.

3.4 Basic climbing techniques used in caving are demonstrated.

Range: may include but not limited to – three points of contact, bridging.

3.5 Techniques for getting through squeezes are demonstrated.

3.6 The use of traverse or handlines is demonstrated.

3.7 Climbing and descending communication calls are demonstrated.

3.8 A body belay on a handline is demonstrated.

3.9 A ladder climb and abseiling are demonstrated while being belayed.

Range: may include but is not limited to – fit harness, attach to rope, controlled descent, avoid dislodging rock.

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element 4

Demonstrate cave navigation skills.

performance criteria

4.1 Cave maps are interpreted and followed.

Range: may include but is not limited to – symbols, features, horizontal scale, cross section.

4.2 Other cave navigational aids are identified.

Range: may include but is not limited to – draught, tape, cairns, arrows.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Sport, Fitness and Recreation Industry Training Organisation info@sfrito.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.

Please Note

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority or a delegated inter-institutional body before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for providers wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

This unit standard is covered by AMAP 0102 which can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/site/framework/search.html>.