

## Perform descender based rope rescue

**Level** 4

**Credits** 6

**Purpose** This unit standard is for people who are required to respond to a rope rescue incident.

People credited with this unit standard are able to: carry out advanced descent and ascent based techniques; and perform descender based rescue to evacuate patient from high angle environment using double line technique.

**Subfield** Specialist Rescue

**Domain** Rope Rescue

**Status** Registered

**Status date** 24 August 2006

**Date version published** 24 August 2006

**Planned review date** 31 December 2010

**Entry information** Prerequisite: Unit 20537, *Provide initial response at rope rescue incidents*, or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.

**Accreditation** Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.

**Standard setting body (SSB)** Fire and Rescue Services Industry Training Organisation

**Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference** 0039

This AMAP can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

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### Special notes

- 1 Legislation and guidelines applying to this unit standard include the – Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, Fire Service Act 1975, Police Act 1958, Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995, and OSH *Prevention of Falls Guidelines*, and their subsequent amendments.

- 2 Assessment against this unit standard may take place under real or simulated practical conditions.
- 3 Practical high angle sites during assessment are to be over eight metres and more than 60 degrees.
- 4 The references for this unit standard include but are not limited to – the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) *Standard Guide for Using Whistle Signals During Rope Rescue Operations*, available from <http://www.astm.org>; James A. Frank, *CMC Rope Rescue Manual* (1998); Smith and Padgett, *On Rope* (2000); Hudson and Vines *High Angle Rescue Techniques* (2004).
- 5 Practical assessment must not compromise the safety of people. Appropriate safety and technical equipment must be used.
- 6 Definitions  
*Patient* is a term that has been used to reflect a subject requiring rescuing from a high angle environment either in a simulation or actual rope rescue incident.  
*High angle* defines an environment in which one must be secured with rope and other safety equipment to keep from falling from a height (generally above three metres) and more than 60 degrees.  
*Double line technique* includes a single line technique with independent safety.

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## Elements and performance criteria

### Element 1

Carry out advanced descent and ascent based techniques.

Range double line technique, high angle.

### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Knot pass is performed through descender without assistance from a second rope in accordance with the references.
- 1.2 Knot pass is performed through ascent rig without assistance from a second rope in accordance with the references.  
  
Range mechanical or prussik based personal ascent rig.
- 1.3 Application of a range of belay techniques is demonstrated in accordance with the references.  
  
Range self, ground, independent.

## Element 2

Perform descender based rescue to evacuate patient from high angle environment using double line technique.

### Performance criteria

2.1 Anchor system is rigged and checked to cater for two person loading in accordance with the references.

2.2 Descent to access and evaluate condition of patient in accordance with the references.

2.3 Patient is physically stabilised in accordance with the references.

Range descend to patient, protect patient from hazards.

2.4 Patient is medically stabilised using first aid or basic life support methods in accordance with the emergency service provider's procedures or medical protocols.

2.5 Patient is prepared for evacuation from high angle environment in accordance with the references.

Range patient communication, rescue strop or pick off strap (or similar) connection, rigging check, confirmation of plan with command.

2.6 Patient is evacuated to safe area in accordance with the references.

Range pick off rescue, prevention of further injury to patient, communication with patient.

2.7 Patient is prepared for recovery or transport by rope rescue specialist, tier level unit, in accordance with the references.

Range patient records, patient briefs, patient handling.

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### Please note

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report 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 organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

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**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact the Fire and Rescue Services Industry Training Organisation [info@frsito.org.nz](mailto:info@frsito.org.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.