

Title	Operate vertical rope rescue systems for caving		
Level	4	Credits	4

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to demonstrate vertical rope rescue techniques, and care for rescue rigging equipment.
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Classification	Outdoor Recreation > Caving
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Available grade	Achieved
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Prerequisite	Unit 20130, <i>Demonstrate a mid rope rescue using the same rope as that of the stranded person, for caving</i> , or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.
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Guidance Information

- For assessment purposes four caving trips, each taking a minimum of four hours, are required.
- Operating of vertical rope rescue systems can take place either in a caving environment; or at indoor learning facilities.
- For assessment against this unit standard the candidate will not be assessed on the suitability of the anchor system. The candidate can be assessed on a pre-rigged pitch head.
- All activities must comply with relevant environmental, legislative, and/or regulatory requirements set out in the *New Zealand Environmental Care Code*, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act 2001, and their subsequent amendments. The *New Zealand Environmental Care Code* is available from the Department of Conservation, Head Office, PO Box 10420, Wellington, <http://www.doc.govt.nz/>.
- There are minimum assessor requirements for assessment against this unit standard. The details of these requirements are available on the Skills Active Aotearoa website www.skillsactive.org.nz.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Demonstrate vertical rope rescue techniques.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 An improvised harness is tied.
Range seat, chest, full body.
- 1.2 An abseiling device jam on a stranded person is cleared.
Range methods of accessing stranded person, rescuer and stranded person's safety, dewatering device, removing jammed item, re-establish controlled descent.
- 1.3 A lowerable system is operated safely and reset while weighted.
- 1.4 A haul system is used to raise a person stranded on a rope to the pitch head.
Range must include but is not limited to – counterbalance, 3:1 Z-rig.
- 1.5 Issues associated with braking and belaying of loads are explained.
Range may include but is not limited to – identifying when belaying is required, safety, tangles, over loading.
- 1.6 The magnification of loads in hauling systems is explained.
Range may include but is not limited to – resultant load, anchors, ascenders, pulleys, knots, angles, abrasion points, efficiency.
- 1.7 The conversion of a non-lowerable system to a lowerable system while loaded is demonstrated.
- 1.8 A rescue system is selected that meets the requirements of the situation.

Outcome 2

Care for rescue rigging equipment.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Equipment is maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- 2.2 An equipment inspection identifies deterioration and the requirement for equipment retirement.
Range may include but is not limited to – fracture, wear, corrosion, abrasion, cuts, UV damage, age, history.
- 2.3 The care and storage of equipment is explained.
Range washing, drying, lubricating, storage, chemical contact.

Replacement information	This unit standard replaced unit standard 5490.
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This unit standard is expiring. Assessment against the standard must take place by the last date for assessment set out below.

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	29 October 2004	31 December 2021
Revision	2	26 January 2007	31 December 2021
Review	3	23 November 2017	31 December 2021

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0102
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

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