

<b>Title</b>	<b>Demonstrate knowledge and skills for mountaineering in easy alpine terrain</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	<p>This unit standard is intended for people who can demonstrate knowledge and skills for mountaineering in easy alpine terrain.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge and use of overnight mountaineering gear and equipment commonly used in New Zealand; demonstrate overnight mountaineering skills in easy alpine terrain; and apply weather interpretation and forecasting skills in an alpine environment.</p>
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<b>Classification</b>	Outdoor Recreation > Alpine
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<b>Available grade</b>	Achieved
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### Guidance Information

- All learning and assessment leading to this unit standard must be carried out in accordance with the following:

  - relevant legislation including Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, Human Rights Act 1993, Vulnerable Children's Act 2014 and Health and Safety at Work (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2016;
  - Alpine Hiking Activity Safety Guidelines published by Worksafe New Zealand;
  - industry Codes including the Snow Responsibility Code, the Outdoor Safety Code and 'Leave No Trace' principles;
  - a recognised and approved safety management system including organisational policies and procedures including Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE);
  - current industry good practice.
- Definitions**

*Current industry good practice* means the range of actions currently accepted within the adventure and outdoor sector to manage the risk of harm to staff, participants, and visitors.

*VHF radio* means very high-frequency radio.

*GPS* means global positioning system.

*Gear* includes footwear and clothing.
- Evidence towards performance criterion 2.2 can be collected under simulated conditions.

- 4 Graduates working in avalanche terrain must operate within the terrain and supervision requirements defined by the scope statements set in the draft New Zealand Avalanche Terrain Operating Guidelines for Instructors/Guides, or an audited operational specific equivalent (see Appendix 1 in programme guidance); Further information on the Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale (ATES) can be found in Appendix 2 of the programme guidance. It can be found at [www.skillsactive.org.nz](http://www.skillsactive.org.nz).

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## Outcomes and performance criteria

### Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge and use of overnight mountaineering gear and equipment commonly used in New Zealand.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Describe the range of gear and equipment commonly used for mountaineering in New Zealand.
- Range types, characteristics, cost, care, maintenance, storage, advantages and limitations.
- 1.2 Explain navigational aids commonly used in New Zealand.
- Range characteristics, cost, care, maintenance, storage needs, advantages and limitations.
- 1.3 Describe the use, advantages and limitations of communication devices used in the alpine environment.
- Range includes – mountain radio, VHF radio, cell phones, satellite phone, GPS tracker and Personal Locator Beacon.
- 1.4 Demonstrate the use of overnight mountaineering gear and equipment that is appropriate to the alpine environment and weather.

### Outcome 2

Demonstrate overnight mountaineering skills in easy alpine terrain.

#### Performance criteria

- 2.1 Apply avalanche and snow safety skills and knowledge including obtaining an avalanche hazard forecast for the area, selecting a safe route and activity location.
- 2.2 Navigate a safe route using a map and natural features in limited visibility.
- 2.3 Demonstrate locating current position on a ridge using a resection.

2.4 Demonstrate use of ice axe and crampons.

Range includes but is not limited to – walking, and self-arrest.

2.5 Demonstrate alpine rope skills.

Range construction and use of a handline, lowering down a short slope, confidence roping.

2.6 Construct a snow shelter for an overnight stay.

2.7 Demonstrate safe practices in and around alpine waterways including identifying hazards, and safe techniques for crossing open and snow-covered streams.

2.8 Demonstrate alpine camping skills.

Range includes – the use of alpine camping equipment, site selection, food hygiene and cooking, safe water practices, and management of human waste.

### Outcome 3

Apply weather interpretation and forecasting skills in an alpine environment.

#### Performance criteria

3.1 Observe changes in weather conditions to create a 24hr forecast for an alpine area of New Zealand.

Range includes is but not limited to – cloud formation, temperature, and wind direction.

3.2 Use a synoptic weather chart to create a 48 to 72-hour weather forecast for a given alpine area.

3.3 Interpret weather information for a given alpine area and describe the effect on mountain conditions.

Range includes – snowpack, avalanche risk, and planned route selection and activity location.

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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	25 January 2018	31 December 2026
Review	2	25 July 2024	31 December 2026

**Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference**

0099

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