

<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

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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).
- 5 Further information regarding industry guidelines, key definitions and other relevant information can be found within Alpine programme guidance document. This document should be consulted when developing learning or assessment against this unit standard. 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.

<b>Planned review date</b>	31 December 2022
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**Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions**

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	25 January 2018	N/A

<b>Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference</b>	0099
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

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**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact Skills Active Aotearoa Limited [info@skillsactive.org.nz](mailto:info@skillsactive.org.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.