

Title	Demonstrate river rescue skills and techniques for Grade 2 rivers		
Level	4	Credits	5

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of rescue equipment for Grade 2 river rescue situations; demonstrate use of ropes, knots, hitches and bends used in whitewater river rescue situations; demonstrate rescue techniques suitable for Grade 2 rivers; demonstrate the ability to move confidently and communicate with others in Grade 2 rivers.
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Classification	Outdoor Recreation > Rafting
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 All learning and assessment against this standard must be carried out in accordance with the following:
 - relevant legislation including Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, Human Rights Act 1993, Children's Act 2014, Health and Safety at Work (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2016;
 - industry Codes of Conduct, such as the Mountain Safety Council Land Safety Code available from [NZ Land Safety Code — NZMSC \(mountainsafety.org.nz\)](https://mountainsafety.org.nz) and 'Leave No Trace' principles available from <https://leavenotrace.org.nz>;
 - a recognised and approved Safety Management System (SMS) including organisational policies and procedures, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), incident response management plans and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
 - current industry good practice.
- 2 Classification of river grading systems as stated in the WorkSafe NZ June 2020, Good Practice Guideline, *White Water Rafting: Guidance for Commercial Rafting Operators*, available from <https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/adventure-activities/white-water-rafting/> Section 3.0. Managing risk: the river environment.

Grade 2 rapids

Characteristics

- have regular medium-sized waves of less than a metre,
- low ledges or drops, easy eddies, and gradual bends, and
- a passage that is: easy to recognise, and generally unobstructed, although there may be rocks in the main current, overhanging branches or log jams.

3 Definitions

Craft means a raft or a riverboard.

Current industry good practice means the range of actions currently accepted within the adventure and outdoor sector (which includes the raft and riverboard industries) to manage the risk of harm to staff, participants, and visitors.

4 Evidence towards practical performance can be collected under simulated conditions.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of rescue equipment for Grade 2 river rescue situations.

Performance criteria

1.1 Describe suitable personal safety equipment and its purpose.

Range helmet, rescue personal floating device (PFD), clothing, footwear, knife, throw bag, carabiners, slings, Prusik loops, whistle, flip line, watch.

1.2 Describe rescue equipment and its use.

Range static rope, carabiners, Prusik loops, pulleys, slings or lengths of rope.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate use of ropes, knots, hitches and bends used in whitewater river rescue situations.

Performance criteria

2.1 Compare rope types used in river rescues in terms of qualities and limitations.

Range static, dynamic, floating.

2.2 Explain the purpose, use and limitations of rope rescue knots, bends and hitches.

Range knots include – bowline, tape or water, figure eight, follow-through figure eight, figure eight on a bight, alpine butterfly;
bends include – fisherman's, sheet;
hitches include – Prusik, truckers, half, clove, Italian.

2.3 Demonstrate tying rope rescue knots, bends and hitches.

Range knots include – bowline, tape or water, figure eight, follow-through figure eight, figure eight on a bight, alpine butterfly;
bends include – fisherman's, sheet;
hitches include – Prusik, truckers, half, clove, Italian.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate rescue techniques suitable for Grade 2 rivers.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Demonstrate throw bag rescue, deploying throw-bag accurately over a minimum of 15 metres.
- 3.2 Demonstrate coiled throw bag rescue, deploying coils accurately over a minimum of 10 metres.
- 3.3 Demonstrate a static and dynamic belay technique during throw line rescues.
- Range selection of access and retrieval point.
- 3.4 Demonstrate swimming rescue techniques.
- Range tethered swimmer, contact swim towing, unconscious victim support.
- 3.5 Demonstrate techniques for the retrieval of pinned or trapped craft.
- Range 10 person pull, vector pull, basic anchor.

Outcome 4

Demonstrate the ability to move confidently and communicate with others in Grade 2 rivers.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Demonstrate clear and effective on-river communication with other guides, using recognised river signals and acknowledgement of signals received.
- 4.2 Demonstrate confident movement in and around Grade 2 water.
- Range move quickly and confidently on the riverbank, shallow water entry (dive flat) into water, jump from a height, head-up swim technique, defensive swim position through wave trains, access midstream eddies and rocks, river crossing (solo and mutual support).

Planned review date	31 December 2029
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	24 September 2020	31 December 2026
Review	2	27 March 2025	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0099

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

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Toi Mai Workforce Development Council qualifications@toimai.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.