



INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL  
RESCUE ASSOCIATION

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## Rope Rescue Sub-Charter

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## Rope Rescue Principles

- Assessors shall not assess more than 8 candidates per day.
- Failure to complete a learning objective shall be recorded as a major discrepancy.
- Only **independent assessments** and **split instruction and assessment** models are allowed for rope rescue assessments.
- Rope systems shall consist of an appropriate number of attachment for the technique being performed.
- Rope functions may be interchangeable. The function (belay, lower, raise, etc.) of the ropes may be inter-changeable during an evolution.
- Rope systems shall pass a “**hands-off**” test.
- Rope rescue systems shall incorporate appropriate backups to limit failure.
- Rope systems must be constructed with an adequate **safety factor**, based on local protocols, to prevent failure in the case of unexpected dynamic loading.
- Steps must be taken to mitigate the potential to exacerbate patient injuries or create additional injuries.

## Rope Rescue Discrepancies

### RR1 Task Completeness

Tasks must be completed by the candidate. Tasks will be explained to the candidate before commencing. The candidate is allowed to ask clarifying questions about the task. Candidates need to ensure they understand the task before it is attempted. Tasks may be halted by the assessor if an unsafe condition develops. If a task is halted by an assessor, the assessor will provide a reason for the decision.

**Major:** Failure to complete a task either through the candidate giving up or by being stopped by the assessor.

**Minor:** No minor for this discrepancy

### RR2 Reasonable Time

Tasks are expected to be performed with continual progress. Candidates will be given reasonable time to perform tasks. A candidate is expected to show familiarity, refrain from excessive self-correcting, or taking excessively longer than their peers to complete a task.

**Major:** Excessive time taken over the entire assessment resulting from accumulating 2 or more minor time discrepancies.

**Minor:** Excessive time taken to perform an individual task including but not limited to:

- Excessive self-correcting
- Taking excessively longer than their peers to complete a task.

### **RR3 Appropriate PPE Selection and Use**

Appropriate PPE must be worn by the candidate. A helmet must be worn by the candidate if they are exposed to an overhead hazard or fall potential. Harnesses must be properly sized for the candidate and fit securely. Helmets and harnesses must be worn in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**Major:** Inappropriate PPE or PPE which is not used correctly.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Helmet not worn while at risk from an overhead hazard(s), falling object(s), fall potential, while suspended on a rope, and/or in designated pre-arranged areas.
- Excessive movement of a harness prevents the candidate from being able to safely perform a task.
- Harness not properly worn including buckles being unsecured.
- Personal protective equipment not used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Personal protective equipment not being worn resulting in a debilitating injury.

**Minor:** Inappropriate PPE or PPE that is not used correctly but does not cause a life safety risk. This includes but is not limited to:

- Incorrectly adjusted helmet.
- Twist in a leg loop of a harness.

### **RR4 Appropriate Points of Attachment**

Candidates shall use an appropriate number of attachments to the rope system while performing tasks. If a two-rope system is being used, attachments to two separate ropes must be maintained at all times. If a single rope is to be used during the assessment, this must be coordinated in advance with the assessor. The candidate shall clarify to the assessor the steps that will be taken to mitigate potential hazards. The assessor shall make the final determination on the appropriateness of a backup safety line being required. A candidate may not change the technique to use a single-rope system from a two-rope system after the assessment of a task has begun.

**Major:** Failure to carry out the task with the agreed-upon points of attachment being maintained during the task.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Failure to maintain an attachment to two independent ropes when using a two-rope system.
- Failure to maintain two points of attachment with the rope system during a transfer operation.
- Failure to maintain an attachment point sufficient to support the candidate's weight, and any additional load, at all times while using the rope system.

**Minor:** No minor for this discrepancy

## RR5 Edge Restraint and Fall Prevention

The candidate shall not be in a position where a fall might occur without appropriate fall prevention or edge restraint.

**Major:** Failure to use a restraint system or inappropriate use which could result in serious injury. This includes but is not limited to:

- Failure to use a restraint system near an edge without a fall protection barrier, such as a railing or half-wall
- A slip or fall past an edge resulting from a restraint system being used incorrectly.

**Minor:** Improperly setup or sized edge restraint allowing movement past an edge which would not result in serious injury.

## RR6 Inappropriate Equipment Selection and Setup

Initial equipment selection and setup shall be according to accepted industry best practices. Before performing a task the candidate shall perform a check of personal and system equipment ensuring it is rigged appropriately and securely.

**Major:** Inappropriate equipment selection which may compromise the safety of the candidate or system. This includes but is not limited to:

- Selection of incompatible equipment.
- Inappropriate selection and construction of an anchor system which may compromise system integrity.

**Minor:** Inappropriate equipment setup that does not compromise the safety of the candidate or system.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Once a task has begun, the candidate has to retrieve missing or necessary equipment needed to complete the task.

## RR7 Inappropriate Equipment Use

Equipment shall be used appropriately according to both industry best practices and the manufacturer's instructions.

**Major:** Use, or immediate intent, to use equipment in a manner that creates a life safety risk.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Use of equipment in a manner that causes the device to function incorrectly.
- Using a device in a manner that could result in forces that overload the device's capabilities.
- Misuse that could result in functional damage to a device.
- Unlocked connectors where a failure of the connector directly compromises system integrity.
- Attachment of the system to inappropriate non-load bearing points on a harness.
- Failure to take precautions to properly protect ropes from hazards that might result in the rope being cut.

**Minor:** Use of equipment that is not acceptable in best practices but does not create an immediate life safety risk.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Failure to lock off a **descent control device** when not in use.
- In use unlocked connectors where a failure of the connector does not compromise system integrity.
- Cross-loading carabiners.
- Failure to take precautions to properly protect ropes from excessive abrasion.

## RR8 Poor Technique

It is the candidate's responsibility to monitor personal and system equipment during a task to ensure that unsafe situations do not develop.

**Major:** Use, or immediate intent, to use a technique that creates a life safety risk. This includes but is not limited to:

- Uncontrolled descent.

- Allowing a greater than **fall factor** 1 fall potential to develop during a task.
- In use ropes tangled around an object which could result in personal injury.
- Incorrectly selected or tied knots which if loaded would compromise the integrity of the system.
- Use of equipment in a manner that could result in damage to ropes or other components.
- Careless treatment of a patient that could result in serious injury or exacerbating an existing injury

**Minor:** Use of a technique that is not acceptable in best practices but does not create an immediate life safety risk. This includes but is not limited to:

- Needing to remove knots or tangles in a rope to complete the task.
- Lack of extra friction when lowering/descending if needed.
- Inappropriate equipment used for a task.
- Incorrectly selected or tied knots that do not compromise the integrity of the system.
- Dropped equipment.

## **RR9 Swinging or Uncontrolled Movement**

Care must be taken to minimize swinging or uncontrolled movement of either a candidate performing a maneuver on a rope or controlling a load suspended from a rope system. The potential for uncontrolled movement must be monitored and corrected before it is allowed to develop.

**Major:** Use of a technique, or immediate intent to use a technique, that could result in uncontrolled movement that poses a serious risk of injury or damage to equipment including but not limited to:

- Actions or techniques that could result in losing control of equipment or a load connected to a rope system.
- Allowing more than 1 meter of slack to develop in an actively used rope system.

**Minor:** Excessive or unintentional movement that does not result in an immediate potential for injury or damage to equipment but displays poor technique.

## **RR10 Inappropriate Conduct**

Candidates shall be tested on their ability to perform a task without assistance in a professional manner. All clarifying questions must be communicated with the assessor and only the assessor.

**Major:** Inappropriate conduct including but not limited to:

- Fraud, cheating, or coaching from other students or spectators.
- Failure to follow instructions given by the assessor.
- Disrespectful argumentative behavior.
- Utilizing any pictures, documents, or other reference material once the assessment has begun.

**Minor:** No minor for this discrepancy