

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PATROLLERS CERTIFICATION TESTING CRITERIA - ROPE RESCUE

TEST FORMAT:

- A. The candidate performs a self evacuation from a carrier stopped no more than fifteen feet above the snow surface.
- B. Approximately six feet before reaching the snow surface the candidate stops. Next the candidate must demonstrate the use of a foot prusik to take weight completely off their rappel belay device without slippage. After this demonstration the candidate then resume their descent to the snow surface.
- C. The candidate next performs a public evacuation of an assistant, with skis on, occupying the same stopped carrier that he or she just executed a self-evacuation from.
- D. Preparation for the public evacuation requires Tower Climbing. The candidate must have knowledge of Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) Tower Climbing rules and regulations.

OSHA specifies that if you have employees who climb higher than six feet they must be trained and certified in fall protection. If they are not certified, they must be under direct on-site supervision of a certified individual, and climb 100% attached.

Note: A precautionary belay rope for tower climbing is MANDATORY. The judge belays from the snow surface through runner fastened to highest secure point on a cross-arm of the chair lift tower being climbed.

- D. The candidate sets up a mock low angle rescue/belay problem. The candidate uses an assistant as a belayed patroller who descends to a stranded skier. The Candidate must show the assistant how to tie a rescued person into a rope and belay both of them back up slope.

BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED TO ATTAIN **ASSOCIATE** STATUS:

1. The candidate demonstrates knowledge of basic knots: figure eight, ring-bend, bowline, fisherman's, prusik, etc.
2. The candidate completes A thru D above successfully, without attempting any maneuvers which would put anyone at risk (judges, assistant, candidate)

ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED TO ATTAIN **CERTIFIED** STATUS:

1. The candidate demonstrates knowledge of above knots, plus acceptable substitutes.
2. The candidate completes all maneuvers in a time frame that is brief, due to competent efficiency rather than haste.

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3. The candidate can at any point demonstrate knowledge of more than one technique, (i.e., braking systems, evacuation harnesses, tie-in knots, etc).
4. The candidate's mock belay setup is in accordance with standard mountaineering practices. The candidates belaying and rope handling skills are unhesitating, instinctive and flawless.

Note:

This is an outdoor, oral and practical, skills test. It is about an hour and a half in length. This practical test carries with it some potential risk to candidates assistants and judges.

The judge(s) may stop this practical test because of a potentially disastrous error. This is responsibility of the judges in the evaluation process. If a test is stopped the candidate will automatically receive a Sustaining score and education, not evaluation, will become the format. It is mandatory, for safety reasons, that candidates do not take this test until they have seriously practiced and studied the above testing criteria. Consider auditing this practical test before you are personally evaluated. Help out a candidate by being an assistant first.

As with all practical tests you may be asked if your evaluation can be audited by a non-testing person for education purposes. You have the right to deny this opportunity. More than one judge may be present during your evaluation for consistency of evaluation.

Required Items for Testing:

1. If new to testing you will need your Patrol Director's sign-off to confirm that you have the skills and knowledge to perform the testing criteria.
2. Be ready to ski with all equipment and clothing at the time of testing.
3. Lift Evacuation Pack with pre-inventoried public evacuation gear used at your local ski area.
4. Self Evacuation gear.
5. OSHA approved Full Body Harness with Fall Protection.
6. Bring an assistant for the public lift evacuation and low angle rescue parts of this practical test.

References:

Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills, Graydon

- National Ski Areas Association and National Ski Patrol: The Lift Evacuation Manual
- Mountaineering Freedom of the Hills
- www.osha.gov
- Local Ski Area Protocol
- Association of Professional Patrollers – Study Guide