



LOW ANGLE ROPE RESCUE OPERATIONAL



Chapter 1: Course Introduction

Chapter 1: Course Introduction

Scope: This chapter serves as an introduction to the course, providing students with general information and expectations of the course.

Terminal Learning Objective (TLO): At the end of this chapter, the student will be aware of the course goals, planned activities to achieve those goals, and the requirements for successfully completing the course.

Enabling Learning Objectives (ELO):

1. Describe the course objectives and an overview
2. Define low and high angle rescue
3. Describe rescuer and victim safety and personal protective equipment
4. Describe the student evaluation process

Course Overview

The Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational course is designed to provide training for responders in low angle rope rescue operations. These over-the-side operations may be the result of a vehicle accident, hiking mishap, swift water rescue, or search and rescue function in an urban or remote area.

This course will also provide training in a subject element required for the California Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Basic and Light Operational Level by serving as the prerequisite training if you wish to continue your training in a Rescue Systems 1 course. Rescue Systems 1 prepares you for light-frame building collapse incidents caused by earthquake, terrorist actions, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) event, or other catastrophe.

The Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational course is a 24-hour course taught in a three-day format. Students will be grouped by squad, team, company, or other similar configuration. Each class session will begin on time, and your attendance is mandatory.

Injuries and/or Limitations

Notify your instructor of any previous injury or limitation you may have that would affect your participation in a training evolution. In addition, notify your instructor immediately of any injury sustained during any portion of the class.

Low and High Angle Rope Rescue Definitions

Low angle rope rescue refers to an environment in which the "on-rope" rescuers are predominately supported by the rescuers themselves and not the rope rescue system.

High angle rope rescue refers to an environment in which the "on-rope" rescuers are predominantly supported by the rope rescue system.

Rescuer and Victim Safety Considerations

A low angle rope rescue incident presents numerous hazards to the rescuers as well as the victim. The rescuers should assess and utilize proper safety precautions for the following:

- Fall restraint.
 - Step, slippery edges or slopes.

- Overhead hazards.
 - Loose rock (scree), soils, or other objects that present overhead hazards to personnel below.
- Vectors.
 - Snakes, spiders, and ticks.
- Poisonous plants.
- Environmental conditions
 - Rain, snow, cold, and heat.
- Vehicle traffic.
- Water.
 - It is common for motor vehicles to run off elevated roadways into canals, lakes, and rivers.

Personal Protective Equipment

You should have the following personal protective equipment (PPE) in your possession at all times:

- Fire/rescue helmet or bump cap.
- Eye protection.
- Safety boots (lace-up style with lug sole is recommended).
- Leather gloves.
- Long-sleeve shirt or brush fire coat.
- Long or brush fire pants.

Your instructor will determine the amount of PPE you will wear for each training evolution. It is recommended that you apply sunscreen and bring ample drinking water for each session.

Student Evaluations

You will be evaluated both individually and collectively on a number of skills and evolutions. A task book will guide you and the instructor through the tasks required for successful completion of this course.

Individual Skills

1. Rescue knots and hitches.
2. Anchor systems.
3. Rescuer and ambulatory victim packaging.
4. Types of rescue litters and victim packaging.
5. Descending and ascending techniques.

Group Tasks

1. Windlass picket systems.
2. System attachments and fall protection.
3. Three main components of a low angle rope rescue system.

4. Belay/safety line systems.
5. Lower/raise systems.
6. Use of load-releasing devices.
7. Evolutions.
 - Ambulatory rescue.
 - Nonambulatory rescue (3- and 4-tender).

Haul Systems

- Inline.
- Change of direction.

Mechanical Advantage Systems

- 3:1, 5:1.
- Piggyback 3:1, 5:1.

Optional Evolutions

- Litter walkout.
- Litter walkout with belay/safety line.
- Litter transfer with a ladder system.
 - Moving ladder slide.
 - Ladder slide.

