



Australian Government

SISOCVE002 Descend and ascend ladders in caves

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to descend and ascend vertical pitches in caves using ladders. It also requires the ability to belay ladder climbers during descents and ascents and to self-belay.

It applies to leaders, guides or instructors, who use these skills when leading participants during caving activities. Leadership skills are provided in complementary units.

This unit applies to any type of organisation that delivers outdoor recreation activities including commercial, not-for-profit and government organisations.

No occupational licensing, certification or specific legislative requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Caving

Unit Sector

Outdoor Recreation

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Prepare for the ladder descent or ascent.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

- 1.1. Select clothing, footwear and personal protective equipment suitable for the caving activity and conditions.
- 1.2. Confirm activity safety and emergency response procedures to ensure compliance during activities.
- 1.3. Confirm protocols for communications between climber and belayer.
- 1.4. Identify position of ladder in relation to natural features to account for obstacles, hazards and techniques.

- 1.5. Attach and adjust belay equipment to self and tie knots suitable for the established belay system.
- 1.6. Complete equipment safety checks prior to descent, ascent, or belaying.
2. Descend and ascend and vertical ladders in caves.
 - 2.1. Use safety procedures at bottom, top of and throughout descents and ascents to minimise risk to self and others present.
 - 2.2. Use appropriate posture and fluent laddering techniques to descend and ascend cave ladders.
 - 2.3. Utilise techniques for resting on a ladder to reduce fatigue.
 - 2.4. Safely approach, avoid or negotiate hazards to descend and ascend in a controlled manner.
 - 2.5. Maintain effective communication with belayer throughout descents and ascents.
 - 2.6. Use techniques that minimise damage to equipment and the cave environment during climbs.
3. Belay ladder climbers during descents and ascents.
 - 3.1. Avoid or negotiate hazards and use safety procedures to minimise risk to self and others present.
 - 3.2. Establish belaying position and attach self to anchor, as required, to allow effective and safe use of belay system.
 - 3.3. Maintain rope tension to minimise fall distance and ensure climber movement is not unduly restricted.
 - 3.4. Monitor climber progress constantly, and maintain clear communication with climber.
 - 3.5. Arrest falls promptly using technique suitable to belaying device and situation.
 - 3.6. Safely and efficiently secure climber using tie off techniques; release tie off and allow climber to continue.
4. Self-belay during ladder descents and ascents.
 - 4.1. Attach self to suitable belay device for climb with back up to maintain safety in the event of a fall.
 - 4.2. Use appropriate posture and laddering techniques to execute self-belayed ladder descents and ascents.
 - 4.3. Control self-belay system to execute safe and controlled ladder descents and ascents.
 - 4.4. Utilise features of back up belay system in the event of a fall to self-arrest, self-rescue and complete climb.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance

criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

SKILLS	DESCRIPTION
Reading skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• interpret detailed and familiar organisational safety and emergency response procedures.
Oral communications skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• use clear and unambiguous verbal and non-verbal communications to make intent known.
Numeracy skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• visually estimate angles, estimate load on ropes and ladders to determine appropriate tension for climbing and belaying.

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guides -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>