

ROPE RESCUE & LIFT EVACUATION – MODULE #7 F14 P005A

In this module the candidate is expected to show their advanced knowledge in chair evacuation procedures and a thorough knowledge of the equipment used to evacuate chair lifts. The candidate is required to bring his/her own chair evacuation equipment and properly demonstrate its use.

The typical evaluation is done at a chair lift and starts out with the candidate demonstrating and reviewing the chronological events that lead up to an actual chair evacuation. No one is lowered from the chair in this evaluation. After explaining the key events leading up to an actual evacuation of a chair lift, the candidate then demonstrates the use of his/her equipment including throwing the lead line over the haul cable and demonstrating the correct belay position and how they will communicate with the public in the chair.

Candidates must be prepared to discuss any and/or all of these topics during the demonstration of their chair evacuation equipment:

- Proper care and storage of equipment
- Inspection and replacement of equipment
- Location and deployment of equipment
- The concept of friction
- Planning and budget considerations
- Evacuation protocols, when/how/who determines an evacuation
- Who can stop an evacuation, who can restart a lift and when
- Special considerations - water, cliff faces, terrified skier
- What is a Lift Evacuation Plan (LEP)
- Medical emergencies
- Use of outside personnel and when would you set up a training session
- Ropes and knots
- Lift switches, safety lock outs and how they work
- Adaptive skiers and adaptive equipment considerations

Like all the other modules, it is critical that the Certified Patroller have all the specific skills in a given module, but we are also looking for a patroller that has the overall management skills and broad view of how to conduct a safe evacuation and interact with ski area management.

Be confident in your knowledge and ability. Hesitation and being unsure of your answers will not instill confidence in your Certified evaluators.

Don't confuse the tactical and strategic parts of chair evacuations!

One of the reasons for patroller confusion in learning the complete and accurate picture for conducting a flawless chair evacuation is that they confuse the technical and strategic aspects of the process.

Strategic parts of the evacuation involve the management aspect of the scenario. You are expected to act as the person in charge of an evacuation. Think like a leader - know what to do when and how best to deploy your resources.

The **tactical portion** of a chair evacuation is to understand the various technical aspects of the picture. How to tie knots, knowing what the correct position is for the primary belayer, remembering to use a back up knot, working within an evacuation team, remembering to lock out the electrical supply and knowing what a carabineer is, are all tactical parts of the scenario.

Knowing how to tie a knot doesn't make you a great leader. You may have great leadership skills, but if you are weak in the tactical skills necessary to conduct a safe evacuation, you will not do well in this module either.

We are looking for a patroller who can confidently lead an entire evacuation process in their sleep and tie a knot without thinking!

REMEMBER,

~~DON'T STEP ON THE ROPE! IT IS AN AUTOMATIC FAILURE!~~

Candidates should, at all times, treat rescue equipment and lines with respect.

Low Angle Rescue – Module #8

The Low Angle Rescue module consists of two parts:

1. Knot tying and Anchoring (demonstrated at a separate station).
2. Setting up and executing a properly constructed litter lowering and raising system with a 3:1 mechanical advantage.

KNOT TYING and ANCHORING

The candidate will demonstrate the ability to tie the following knots.

- Figure 8 Follow-through
- Prussik Knot
- Bachman Knot
- Double Fisherman's
- Water Knot or Ring Bend
- Munter Hitch
- Hasty Seat

The certified candidate will demonstrate the ability to construct a variety of anchors and anchoring systems.

- Knotless Anchor
- Single Anchor
- Two-point Equalized Anchor
- Three-point Equalized Anchor

LOW ANGLE RESCUE SYSTEM

The certified candidate will define LAR and describe when a LAR will be appropriate. The candidate will construct a Low Angle Rescue System with a 3:1 Mechanical Advantage. The candidate will demonstrate the use of this system for both raising and lowering a rescue toboggan. This system will include:

- Stout anchor w/sling and locking carabineer. This can also be a multiple anchor system that is equalized.
- Rope secured to litter or sled with slings, carabineers and Figure 8 knot.
- Rope run to provide a 3:1 mechanical advantage for raising.

- Prussik knots or ascenders attached properly to ensure system backup.
- Slings on litter for two rescuers
- Hasty seat on candidate
- Figure 8 or Munter hitch used for lowering.

In accordance with NSP policy and in the interest of risk management, the Low Angle Rescue component will not include the actual lowering of people.

This is a relatively new module with much expected of the candidate. We expect a skill level higher than what we might think is acceptable from a regular patroller. The candidate should demonstrate the ability to perform the skills without a lot of hesitation, floundering or mistakes. If a mistake is made, it is acceptable to correct it in a timely manner that does not compromise safety or operational status of the system.

**~~Remember, stepping on the rope or slings is an automatic failure!~~
Candidates should, at all times, treat rescue equipment and lines with respect.**

Suggested equipment for a low angle rescue kit:

- 150 feet of 11 mm static line
- 100 feet of 1 inch tubular webbing to make 2 – 20' and 4 – 15' lengths
- Locking carabineers - 10
- Harnesses – 2 sets, make sure it can fit over ski boots
- Pulleys – 2 (preferably 1-1/2" to 2" in diameter)
- Belay device – (Figure 8)
- Safeties, 5mm line – 41' (cut to 6 – 5-1/2' and 1 – 8')
- Rope Bag (to put all your stuff in)
- Small mesh bags – 2 (to store carabineers etc and tubing)