

# **Association of Professional Patrollers**

## **Rope Rescue in the Alpine Environment: Testing Criteria**

This Test is intended to test a candidate's ability to operate as part of a ski patrol rope rescue team. A candidate will be asked to set up and explain multiple anchors, hauling, and lowering simulations in a low angle environment.

### **TEST FORMAT:**

- Candidates will be asked to explain the rope rescue program at their mountain. A candidate should understand the different equipment used, parameters for use, and alternatives based on industry standards.
- Candidate sets up and properly equalizes multiple anchors (based on site and equipment available). A candidate should be prepared to build anchors using 1,2, and 3 anchor points that are strong enough to lower a rescuer, retrieve a guest and haul (or assist) the pair back to the belay point.
- Candidate demonstrates lowering, raising, and escaping a belay.
- Candidate demonstrates a 3:1 haul system and can add appropriate progress capture." This demonstration should use a toboggan as weight and demonstrate raise (haul) and lower.
- Candidate explains how to add more mechanical advantage to a system and substitute mechanical devices for simple methods (rope, carabiner, hitches, etc...)
- Candidate explains how to build a rescue system using a two-rope system and when it is appropriate to do so.

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

1. The candidate demonstrates knowledge of basic knots: figure eight, bowline, fisherman's, water-knot, prusik, clove hitch, butterfly, etc.
2. The candidate completes the above simulations successfully, without attempting any maneuvers which would put anyone at risk (judges, assistant, candidate)
3. The candidate's mock belay setup is in accordance with standard mountaineering practices. The candidate's belaying and rope handling skills are unhesitating, instinctive and accurate.

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

1. The candidate demonstrates knowledge of above knots, can tie them in multiple configurations, understands acceptable substitutes, and is able to assess if the knot is tied and used properly.
2. The candidate completes all maneuvers in a time frame that is brief, due to competent efficiency rather than haste.
3. The candidate can at any point demonstrate knowledge of more than one technique, (i.e., braking systems, evacuation harnesses, tie---in knots, etc).