



# Mississippi State Fire Academy

## Rope Rescue Operations Level Skill

**Objective:** NFPA 1006 5.2.13 & 5.2.14  
2017 Ed.

**Primary Task:** Ascending & Descending Rope

### PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS & INSTRUCTION SHEET

#### Performance Steps

1. The ability to select and use a rescuer harness
2. Ability to select a system for ascending and descending rope
3. Selects appropriate equipment PPE for common environment
4. Attaches the life-safety harness to the rope rescue system
5. Configures ascent control devices into a system for ascending a fixed rope
6. Makes connections to ascending system
7. Maneuvers around existing environment and system-specific obstacles
8. Converts ascending system to descending system while suspended from fixed rope
9. Configures descent control devices into a system for descending a fixed rope
10. Operates the descent control device
11. Evaluates surroundings for potential hazards

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CANDIDATE

The candidate, wearing PPE and given equipment likely to be used in a technical rescue, shall ascend a minimum of 20 feet, downclimb 5 ft, changeover and descend a fixed rope to the ground. The candidate shall maintain two points of attachment while on ascent and function check their descender prior to rappelling. Methods shall be those proven and taught within course curriculum.

#### **Ascending System and Descending Equipment Evaluation Criteria:**

Full Points (all must apply)

- Life support equipment is chosen and appropriately applied;
- Candidate is able to assemble and don a safe system;
- System has at least 2 gripping points of attachment;
- Candidate plans for descent and chooses an appropriate descent control device.

#### **Climbing Evaluation Criteria:**

Full Points (all must apply)

- Candidate ascends safely and efficiently;
- Maintains a minimum of two gripping points of attachment to the rope during ascent;
- Manages bottom tension without assistance;
- Demonstrates proficiency in overcoming ledges, obstacles or potential hazards.

#### **Downclimbing Evaluation Criteria:**

Full Points (all must apply)

- Candidate is able to downclimb safely and efficiently;
- Maintains a minimum of two gripping points of attachment to the rope during down climb.

#### **Changeover Evaluation Criteria:**

Full Points (all must apply)

- Candidate changes over safely and efficiently;
- Candidate maintains a minimum of 2 points of attachment to the rope until descender is loaded and
- Candidate tests descender before removing upper attachment from the rope while their weight is fully resting on the descender.

#### **Rappelling Evaluation Criteria:**

Full Points (all must apply)

- Rappels in a controlled manner;
- Candidate demonstrates control and is able to stop, lock off descender, and resume rappel;
- Removes friction as needed to rappel at a comfortable and controlled rate.

#### **Safety Evaluation Criteria:**

Full Points (all must apply)

- Candidate demonstrates commands in a clear and concise manner throughout operation;
- Candidate wears appropriate PPE (including gloves) during operation;
- Candidate demonstrates a system safety check before testing or operating system.

#### **Time Evaluation Criteria:**

Full Points • Under 8 minutes