

Association of Professional Patrollers

Aerial Evacuation and Tower Climbing: Testing Criteria

This test is intended to test a candidate's ability to operate as part of a ski patrol rope rescue team and perform aerial evacuation. A candidate will be asked to follow appropriate federal, state, local, and industry practices.

TEST FORMAT:

- Candidate will be asked to explain the Aerial Evacuation program at their mountain. A candidate should understand the different equipment used, parameters for use, and alternatives based on industry standards.
- Candidate will climb a lift tower, set up, and execute an Aerial Evacuation of a guest. The candidate may use the assistance of a "rookie patroller" (if they provide one)
- Candidate will demonstrate ascending a rope (10-20 ft) switching to descent and descending the rope. This maneuver should be completed on a two-rope system.
- Candidate should be able to explain two rope systems and when they are appropriate following industry practices.
- Candidate should demonstrate unweighting a fall arrestor on lift tower. (Simulated fallen worker)

BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED TO ATTAIN ASSOCIATE STATUS:

1. The candidate demonstrates knowledge of basic knots used in aerial evacuation: figure eight, prusik, butterfly, etc.
2. Candidate uses equipment appropriately and demonstrates understanding of markings, and strength ratings (SWL, MBS, Sewn vs knots, etc...)
3. Candidate shows understanding of regulatory bodies, standards, and practices (ANSI, OSHA, NFPA, NSAA, SPRAT)
4. The candidate completes the above simulations successfully, without attempting any maneuvers which would put anyone at risk (judges, assistant, candidate)

ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED TO ATTAIN CERTIFIED STATUS:

1. The candidate completes all maneuvers in a time frame that is brief, due to competent efficiency rather than haste.
2. The candidate can at any point demonstrate knowledge of more than one technique, (i.e., braking systems, evacuation harnesses, tie---in knots, etc).
3. Candidate demonstrates proficiency and understanding in the use of the Aerial Evacuation Resource Guide at their resort and a rescue and training aid.
4. Candidate can explain maneuvers and decisions in a manner consistent with inspiring competence and the ability to establish and train a team of patrollers.