

DEFINED TERMS



Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians

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Table of Contents:

1. Purpose, Scope 3

2. Defined Terms..... 3

Appendix 1. Anatomy of a Rope Access System 6

Appendix 2. Rope Access System Term Hierarchy 7

Notes for Use:

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1. Purpose, Scope

1.1. Purpose

1.1.1. The purpose of this document is to provide a set of definitions for technical terms used within SPRAT standards, guidelines, and other associated documentation.

1.2. Scope

1.2.1. This document provides a consistent set of terminology that is used within SPRAT documentation.

1.2.2. While there are many other words used to refer to same topics, these terms have been chosen for consistency and precision.

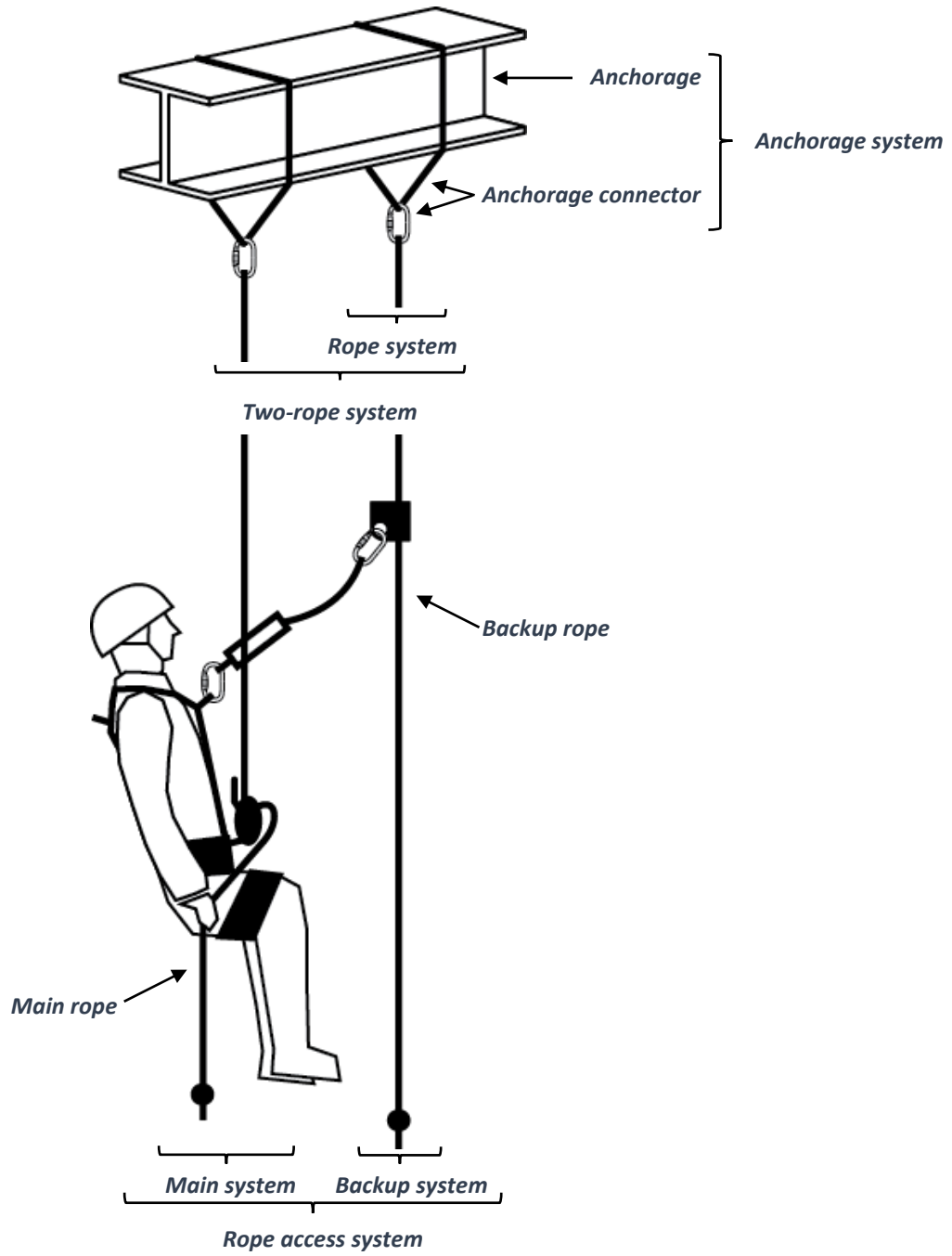
2. Defined Terms

- 2.1. **Activation distance** (FF_A). The increase in the length of a fall protection system before the fall protection applies appreciable force to arrest a fall.
- 2.2. **Access work plan**: A written statement prepared by the **employer** describing how a particular job (or types of jobs where these will be essentially identical) should be undertaken.
- 2.3. **Aid climbing**: A method of vertical and/or lateral progression in suspension, either by moving directly from one **anchorage system** to another or by the use of moveable **anchorage systems**.
- 2.4. **Anchorage**: An object that supports or partially supports a suspended **rope access technician** or load.
- 2.5. **Anchorage connector**: A piece of equipment introduced to establish an interface between an **anchorage** or **anchorages** and the other components of a **main** or **backup system**.
- 2.6. **Anchorage system**: **Anchorage(s)** and associated **anchorage connector(s)** used to interface within a **main** and or **backup system**.
- 2.7. **Arrest distance** (AD). The vertical distance traveled after initial interaction with a fall protection system. This distance is the sum of **activation distance** and **deceleration distance**.
- 2.8. **Ascender**: A type of **rope grab** that is used primarily for climbing a rope by gripping the rope when loaded in one direction and sliding freely in the opposite direction.
- 2.9. **Ascent mode**: A **rope access system** (including a **backup system**) where **ascenders** are the connections to the **rope access technician** within the **main system**.
- 2.10. **Backup rope**: Rope used within a **backup system** to protect against falls if the user slips or a component of the **main system** fails.
- 2.11. **Backup system**: Entire system, including **anchorage system(s)** rope(s), and/or equipment required to absorb the forces from arresting the fall of a **rope access technician** or load.
- 2.12. **Carabiner**: A type of connector, formed as a complete loop with a spring-loaded entry gate.
- 2.13. **Compatible**: Functioning properly together in the manner intended.
- 2.14. **Competent trainer**: A person who, based on training, education, knowledge, and experience in rope access, can safely and effectively deliver a quantifiable educational program to others.
- 2.15. **Deceleration distance** (DD). The vertical distance traveled during the application of force to arrest a fall.
- 2.16. **Descender**: An adjustable friction device that permits its operator to control the lowering, stoppage, and suspension of a person or load.
- 2.17. **Descent mode**: A **rope access system** (including a **backup system**) where a **descender** is the connection to the **rope access technician** within the **main system**.
- 2.18. **Deviation**: The use of a **directional anchorage system** to adjust the **fall line** of a **two-rope system**.
- 2.19. **Directional anchorage system**: An **anchorage system** where a rope passes through an **anchorage connector**, such as a **carabiner** or pulley.
- 2.20. **Discrepancy**: Grade issued for a non-critical safety issue performed by a candidate, while being evaluated, which demonstrates a lack of compliance with SPRAT standards or equipment manufacturer's specifications and/or creates a risk of minor injury or damage to equipment or property.
- 2.21. **Employer**: A corporation, partnership, proprietorship, government agency, or other organization that authorizes its employees to perform rope access work.

- 2.22. **Fail:** Grade issued for a critical safety issue performed by a candidate, while being evaluated, which demonstrates non-compliance with SPRAT standards or equipment manufacturer’s specifications and/or creates a risk of serious injury or damage to equipment or property.
- 2.23. **Fall line:** The route leading straight down following gravity from a given point.
- 2.24. **Fall zone:** The area in which people are at risk of falling, such as *on-rope* or near a working edge.
- 2.25. **Fixed anchorage system:** An *anchorage system* where a rope or lanyard terminates with a knot or sewn termination.
- 2.26. **Fixed backup system:** A system where a backup device or similar, connected to an *anchorage system*, is operated by a *rope access technician* for the purpose of arresting the fall of another person or load.
- 2.27. **Free fall.** The act of falling before the application of forces to arrest the fall.
- 2.28. **Free fall distance (FF).** The vertical distance traveled before the application of forces to arrest a fall.
- 2.29. **Free fall potential (FF_L).** The vertical distance traveled prior to interaction with a fall protection system.
- 2.30. **Hazard zone:** Any area where a person may be at risk as a result of the work being performed. This includes the *rope access technicians on-rope* as well as anyone at a lower level that may be struck by a falling object.
- 2.31. **Independent evaluator:** An Evaluator that has not trained the candidate nor is currently employed by the training company or the *employer* of the candidate.
- 2.32. **Level 1 Technician:** A person that holds a current certification demonstrating successful completion of the requirements of a *Level I Technician* as required by *Certification Requirements for Rope Access Work*.
- 2.33. **Level 2 Technician:** A person that holds a current certification demonstrating successful completion of the requirements of a *Level II Technician* as required by *Certification Requirements for Rope Access Work*.
- 2.34. **Level 3 Technician:** a person that holds a current certification demonstrating successful completion of the requirements of a *Level III Technician* as required by *Certification Requirements for Rope Access Work*.
- 2.35. **Limited free fall potential:** the restriction of possible free fall to no greater than 60 cm (2 ft).
- 2.36. **Locking carabiner:** A *carabiner* with a mechanism that reduces the possibility of a gate being opened inadvertently. A locking mechanism requires at least two different consecutive manual actions to open the gate.
- 2.37. **Main rope:** The primary rope used for descending, ascending, or positioning.
- 2.38. **Main system:** Entire system, including *anchorage system(s)*, rope(s), and/or equipment required to support the forces of a *rope access technician* or a load during normal use.
- 2.39. **Minimum breaking strength (MBS):** A manufacturer specified minimum force at which a new component may fail.
- 2.40. **On-rope:** The condition of being suspended from or attached to a rope.
- 2.41. **Presiding regulatory authority:** Governmental agency having jurisdiction over an area where work is performed.
- 2.42. **Proctor:** Individual who oversees students for test taking purposes. *Proctor* must be approved by SPRAT and submit a signed affidavit.
- 2.43. **Re-anchor:** The use of intermediate, *fixed anchorage systems* within the path of a *two-rope system*, usually to adjust the *fall line* of the *two-rope system*.
- 2.44. **Remote rescue:** Procedure for rescuing *rope access technicians* without placing a *rescuer on-rope*.
- 2.45. **Remote rescue system:** All equipment used for rescue of a *rope access technician* without placing a *rescuer on-rope*.
- 2.46. **Rescue service:** Organization determined by the *employer* to be capable of safe and effective rescue of *rope access technicians*.
- 2.47. **Rescuer:** A person responsible for the safe extrication of another individual in the case of an emergency.
- 2.48. **Rope access:** Techniques that allow descent, ascent, and lateral movement for getting to and from a desired working location, that use direct connections for suspension from the *main system(s)*, and that focus on *limited free fall potential* for the *backup system(s)*. Typically, these techniques employ *two-rope systems*.

- 2.49. **Rope Access Program Administrator:** A person authorized by their **employer** to be responsible for managing the **employer's** rope access program, who is suitably knowledgeable, experienced, and qualified to manage the rope access program, including matters relating to safety, training, regulations, staffing, equipment selection and management, and other program responsibilities as designated by the **employer**.
- 2.50. **Rope Access Supervisor:** A person with the training, skills, experience, and certification necessary to assume responsibility for the entire rope access work site, including management of other **rope access technicians** on the work site, who is capable of designing, evaluating and specifying **rope access systems**, and who has the knowledge, experience, and skills necessary to direct rescue operations and to perform advanced rescue from **rope access systems**.
- 2.51. **Rope access system:** All components including **main** and **backup system(s)** connecting a **rope access technician** to an **anchorage** or **anchorages**.
- 2.52. **Rope access technician:** A person who has completed a rope access certification program and has the appropriate training and experience to perform the duties required according to the assigned level of responsibility.
- 2.53. **Rope grab:** A device used to grasp a rope for the purpose of supporting a load.
- 2.54. **Rope system:** **Rope(s)** and **anchorage system(s)** to which equipment may be attached to establish a **backup** or **main system**.
- 2.55. **Safe zone:** Any area outside the **hazard zone** or the **fall zone**.
- 2.56. **Stretch-out** (x_w). The vertical extension between a worker's lowest point and harness attachment during a fall.
- 2.57. **Swing fall.** A pendulum-like motion that occurs during and/or after free fall.
- 2.58. **Swing fall distance (SFD).** The vertical distance traveled between the onset of and the lowest point of a swing fall.
- 2.59. **Total fall distance (TFD).** The total vertical distance traveled from the onset of and the lowest point of a fall, with reference to a worker's harness attachment to a fall protection system.
- 2.60. **Travel restraint system:** System of attachment to an **anchorage** that prevents a fall from occurring.
- 2.61. **Two-rope system:** Rope(s) and **anchorage system(s)** to which equipment may be attached to establish a **main** and **backup system**. In a **two-rope system**, the individual **rope systems** are interchangeable as either the **main** or **backup ropes**.

Appendix 1. Anatomy of a Rope Access System



Appendix 2. Rope Access System Term Hierarchy

- **Rope access system:** All components including *main* and *backup system(s)* connecting a *rope access technician* to an *anchorage* or *anchorages*.
 - **Two-rope system:** Rope(s) and *anchorage system(s)* to which equipment may be attached to establish a *main* and *backup system*. In a *two-rope system*, the individual *rope systems* are interchangeable as either the *main* or *backup ropes*.
 - **Rope system:** *Rope(s)* and *anchorage system(s)* to which equipment may be attached to establish a *backup* or *main system*.
 - **Backup system:** Entire system, *anchorage system(s)* rope(s), and/or equipment required to absorb the expectant forces from arresting the fall of a *rope access technician* or load.
 - **Fixed backup system:** A system where a backup device or similar, connected to an *anchorage system*, is operated by a *rope access technician* for the purpose of arresting the fall of another person or load.
 - **Backup rope:** Rope used within a *backup system* to protect against falls if the user slips or a component of the *main system* fails.
 - **Main system:** Entire system, including *anchorage system(s)*, rope(s), and/or equipment required to support the expectant forces of a *rope access technician* or a load during normal use.
 - **Main rope:** The primary rope used for descending, ascending, or positioning.
 - **Anchorage system:** *Anchorage(s)* and associated *anchorage connector(s)* used to interface within a *main* and or *backup system*.
 - **Fixed anchorage system:** An *anchorage system* where a rope or lanyard terminates with a knot or sewn termination
 - **Directional anchorage system:** An *anchorage system* where a rope passes through an *anchorage connector*, such as a *carabiner* or pulley
 - **Anchorage connector:** A piece of equipment introduced to establish an interface between an *anchorage* or *anchorages* and the other components of a *main* or *backup system*.
 - **Anchorage:** An object that supports or partially supports a suspended *rope access technician* or load.