



PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY

ROPE RESCUE OPERATIONS SKILL STATIONS

NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition) Chapter 5

Effective March 1, 2026:

- All certification candidates are required to maintain an active Acadis user portal account. (Acadis portal location = OSFC website/ Training and Certification Portal, or click here: [ENVISAGE Acadis®](#))
- All certification candidates are to be registered with the designated test site and rostered for the certification test.

Skill Stations

NFPA 1006 Rope Operations – Chapter 5 (2021 Edition)

Station A	Knots & Hitches (1 Evaluator)	Mandatory Station
Station B	Haul & Lowering Systems: Low Angle (2 Evaluators)	Mandatory Station
Station C	Belay System (1 Evaluator)	Mandatory Station
Station D	Haul & Lowering Systems: High Angle (2 Evaluators)	Mandatory Station
Station E	Inspection & Maintenance (1 Evaluator)	Mandatory Station
Station F	Construct a Fixed Rope System (1 Evaluator)	Mandatory Station

All skills in the Rope Rescue Operation Level Skills Menu are Mandatory. All skills in the Rope Rescue Operations level MUST be passed with 100% of tasks being checked "YES." Any task checked "NO" in a skill station is a failure of that skill.

HOWEVER, skills B and D are broken into " SECTIONS. " Candidates who are unsuccessful at completing a section of skill B or D will only have to retest on the section that they failed.

Candidates who are unsuccessful at two or more sections in Skill Station B, " Hauling & Lowering Systems: Low Angle," or two or more in Skill Station D, " Haul & Lowering Systems: High Angle," will have to retest the entire skill station.

AT NO TIME will a candidate, evaluator, participant, facility staff, etc., approach any edge where a fall of more than three (3) feet is possible without being attached to a fall protection system or a travel restraint system unless they are attached to the main line and belay line or a twin tensioned system. Failure to follow these instructions will be an automatic failure of the station.

Minimum PPE for Rope Rescue testing:

- Helmet/hardhat with chinstrap
- Gloves – to be worn anytime that the candidate is handling moving rope
- Boots
- ANSI Approved Eye Protection
- Class III Harness



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STATION A – Knots & Hitches		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 5 Mandatory Station: JPRs 5.2.4	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type _____ Initial _____ Retest

Evaluator Note: The candidate is only required to tie one listed knot per category.

Directions: Given rope, webbing, and prussik loops, the candidate will tie one knot, and bend, and hitch from the List of Approved Knots and Hitches, so that all knots and hitches are properly tied, dressed, and secured with a safety, if required, if required.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **All** tasks correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Tie an end-of-line loop (bowline w/safety, figure 8 on a bight)		
2	Tie a midline loop (inline eight, alpine butterfly)		
3	Tie a rope around an object (figure 8 follow through, clove hitch w/safety)		
4	Tie a bend for joining rope together (figure 8 bend, double fisherman's (grapevine bend)		
5	Tie a bend joining webbing together (water knot/ring bend)		
6	Grip a rope (3-wrap prusik hitch)		
7	All knots and hitches are properly tied, dressed, and secured with a safety, if required		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____

Evaluator # _____



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STATION B – Haul & Lowering Systems: Low Angle		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 5 Mandatory Station: JPRs 5.2.5, 5.2.7, 5.2.13, 5.2.14, 5.2.15, 5.2.20, 5.2.21, 5.2.22	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____ Initial ____ Retest

Evaluator Note: The station scenario will require the candidates to operate in a low-angle environment where candidates will lower, haul, and belay (required if angle is over 40° or deemed necessary by the rescue team) litter attendants.

Directions: Given life safety rope and rope rescue equipment, the candidates, working as a team, will construct a single-point anchor system, construct, operate, direct the operation of a simple mechanical advantage haul system, construct, operate, and direct the operation of a lowering system, and perform a system safety check prior to operation, so that the load is hauled and lowered in a safe and controlled manner, the load is captured when all rope tension is released, and the anchor is constructed to capture anticipated load forces.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **All** tasks correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
Section 1: Anchor System			
1	Selects anchor point that will capture anticipated load forces		
2	Constructs a single-point anchor system that will accommodate the anticipated load		
3	Constructs systems to capture the load when input forces are released from the system		
Section 2: Simple MA			
4	Constructs and operates a simple mechanical advantage haul system		
5	Performs a system safety check prior to loading and operating the systems		
6	Directs the operation of a simple mechanical advantage haul system		
7	Constructs systems in such a manner that they capture the load when input forces are released from the system		
8	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		
Section 3: Lowering System			
9	Constructs and operates a lowering system		
10	Performs a system safety check prior to loading and operating the systems		
11	Directs the operation of a lowering system		
12	Constructs systems to capture the load when input forces are released from the system		
13	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		
Section 4: Litter Attendant			
14	Dons required PPE correctly for acting as litter attendants		
15	Attaches litter attendants securely to the litter		
16	Attaches litter securely to the rope systems		
17	Packages a victim for transfer to EMS		
18	Directs a lower and haul operation within a low-angle rescue environment		
19	Completes victim transfer report (written and verbal)		
20	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____

Evaluator # _____



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STATION C – Belay System		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 5 Mandatory Station: JPRs 5.2.7, 5.2.9, 5.2.10, 5.2.11	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____ Initial ____ Retest

Evaluator Note: The station scenario will require the candidate to construct and operate a belay system within a single or two-tension rope system.

Directions: Given life safety rope and rope rescue equipment, the candidate will construct, and operate a belay system within a single or two-tension rope system so that the belay system is operated during a hauling and lowering operation, a system safety check is performed prior to loading or operating the system, and the load is captured when all rope tension is released, and a system safety check is performed prior to loading or operating the system.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **All** tasks correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Constructs a belay system within a single or two-tension rope system		
2	Performs a system safety check prior to loading and operating the system		
3	Operates a belay system within a single or two-tension rope system in a hauling and lowering operation		
4	Constructs systems to capture the load when input forces are released from the system		
5	Captures the load when input forces are released from the system		
6	The candidate transfers the load from the belay system back onto the main line		
7	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		
		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____

Evaluator # _____



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STATION D – Haul & Lowering Systems: High-Angle		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 5 Mandatory Station: JPRs 5.2.1, 5.2.5, 5.2.7, 5.2.8, 5.2.9, 5.2.10, 5.2.13, 5.2.14, 5.2.16, 5.2.17, 5.2.18, 5.2.19, 5.2.23, 5.2.24	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____Initial ____Retest

Evaluator Note: The station scenario will require the candidates to operate in a high-angle environment where candidates will lower, haul, and belay a rescuer.

Directions: Given life safety rope and rope rescue equipment, the candidates, working as a team, will construct an anchor system, will construct, operate, and direct the operation of a simple and a compound mechanical advantage haul system, construct, operate, and direct the operation of a lowering system, and perform a system safety check prior to operation so that the load is hauled, lowered, and belayed in a safe and controlled manner, the system has progress capture to stop the load from moving when all rope tension is released, and the anchor is constructed to capture anticipated load forces. The team will lower and raise a single rescuer past an obstruction. The team will also move a litter past an obstruction using tag lines.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **All** tasks correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
Section 1: Size-up Situational Awareness			
1	Initiates scene control, isolation procedures, and hazard control strategies		
2	Identifies the number of victims, victim condition, and victim location(s)		
3	Performs a size-up and provides an initial report to incoming units		
Section 2: Belay System: Construction & Operation			
4	Selects anchor points that will capture anticipated load forces		
5	Constructs an anchor system that will accommodate the anticipated load		
6	Constructs and operates a belay system (single or two-tension rope system)		
7	Performs a system safety check prior to loading and operating the systems		
8	Places and secures edge/rope protection as required		
9	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		
Section 3: MA & Lowering System: Construction & Operation			
10	Constructs and operates a simple mechanical advantage haul system		
11	Directs the operation of a simple mechanical advantage haul system		
12	Constructs and operates a compound mechanical advantage haul system		
13	Directs the operation of a compound mechanical advantage haul system		
14	Constructs and operates a lowering system within a high-angle environment		
15	Directs the operation of a lowering system within a high-angle environment		
16	Performs a system safety check prior to loading and operating the systems		
17	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		

Continued on the next page.



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Station D: Hauling & Lowering System: High-Angle (Page 2)

Section 4: Rescuer			
18	Utilizes fall protection as required		
19	Dons required PPE		
20	Attached securely to the lowering/raising system		
21	Attached securely to the belay system (if not using twin-tensioned system)		
22	Constructs systems to capture the load when input forces are released from the system		
23	The rescuer negotiates an edge in a high-angle environment		
24	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		
Section 5: Litter			
25	Litter securely attached to lowering/raising system and tag line		
26	Litter securely attached to belay system (if not using twin-tensioned system)		
27	Directs a litter lower and raise in a high angle environment		
28	Utilizes a tag line to move the litter past an obstacle		
Section 6: Termination			
29	Terminates incident; eliminates or secures hazards; conducts an on-scene debriefing; completes records and documentation		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ Evaluator # _____



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STATION E – Inspection & Maintenance		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 5 Mandatory Station: JPRs 5.2.2, 5.2.3	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____ Initial ____ Retest

Evaluator Note: The candidate will explain maintenance procedures and demonstrate inspection procedures for the equipment and PPE listed.

Directions: Given rope rescue PPE and equipment, the candidate will explain the maintenance and cleaning procedures for each item and demonstrate inspection procedures for each item, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations so that deficiencies are identified, logged, and deficient items are removed from service in accordance with AHJ policies and procedures.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **All** tasks correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Life safety rope		
2	Webbing		
3	Prusik		
4	Rope rescue harness		
5	Helmet		
6	Gloves		
7	Eye Protection		
8	Rope rescue pulley		
9	Mechanical device (only one (1) device required)		
10	Friction Device (only one (1) device required)		
11	Carabiner		
12	Maintenance & inspection is documented in the appropriate log		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____

Evaluator # _____



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STATION F – Construct a Fixed Rope System		Reference NFPA 1006 (2021 Edition), Chapter 5 Mandatory Station: JPRs 5.2.6, 5.2.12	
Test Site	Test Date	Candidate #	Check the Test Type ____ Initial ____ Retest

Directions: Given rope rescue PPE and equipment, the candidate will construct a fixed rope system given two marginal anchor points and rope rescue equipment that can accommodate the anticipated load.

Performance Outcome: Pass / Fail is determined by **All** tasks correctly performed.

No.	Tasks	Yes	No
1	Construct a multi-point anchor system		
2	Assemble a fixed rope system		
3	Calculate the anticipated load within the systems WLL		
4	Setup of system is efficient		
5	Connect system to the anchor		
6	Complete a system safety check		
7	Evaluate system components for compromised safety		
8	Evaluate results to ensure they meet the requirements for ascending or descending		
9	Completes operation in a safe and controlled manner		
Please indicate skill outcome		PASS	FAIL

Evaluator Comments: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ **Evaluator #** _____