

UKRO Rope Rescue Challenge Cardiff 2018

Technical Skill Tests

Rope rescue teams attending the 2018 rope rescue challenge may be expected to demonstrate any or all of the following skills:

1. Demonstrating work restraint systems
2. Demonstrating fall arrest systems
3. Demonstrating work positioning systems
4. Creating suitable anchor points
5. Descending ropes
6. Ascending ropes
7. Passing a mid-rope obstruction
8. Negotiating an intermediate anchor
9. Free climbing of structures in fall arrest
10. Traversing whilst in suspension
11. Ascending tensioned ropes
12. Descending tensioned ropes
13. Transfer between ropes and anchors
14. Breaking in to tensioned ropes
15. Creating raising systems for rescue
16. Medical packaging of casualties

The Technical Skill Tests will have the following conditions:

- Each test will have a time limit for completion - teams will be informed of this limit during the skill test briefing.
- Some tests may not have marks awarded for command or medical components - teams will be informed if this is the case during the skill test briefing.
- Marks will be awarded as follows:
 - The team with the quickest time will be awarded 200 points.
 - Teams finishing after that time will be awarded a reduced amount of points; the reduction being calculated at 1 point for every 6 seconds longer than the quickest team. (i.e. if a team finishes 60 seconds after the quickest team they will be awarded 10 points less than the 200 awarded to the quickest time, that being 190 marks)
- No points will be awarded to any team finishing 20 minutes or more after the quickest team or to any team not completing the skill test within the skill test time limit.

- All team members must maintain a minimum of 2 systems at all times that there is the possibility of a fall. Failing to do so would constitute a major safety fault and will result in team disqualification.
- All systems must be operated in such a way that the movement of each individual is controlled at all times. Actions that may permit any uncontrolled movement of an individual will be considered unsafe.
- If any team member undertakes any action that in the opinion of the assessors is unsafe, the challenge will be halted (with no time loss to the team) to allow the assessor to confirm the situation. If the action is proved to be unsafe, the team will be required to rectify the situation before continuing. Timing will continue whilst these actions are undertaken. If the action proves to be safe, the challenge will continue with no loss of time to the team.
- A repeated example of an unsafe practice will result in the team being stopped in order to correct the problem before continuing with the skill test.
- Penalties - To promote safety and best practise a Penalty Point will be issued every time a minor safety fault is committed.

Minor safety faults - the following is a non-exhaustive list of minor safety faults:

- descender not locked off or no control of the tail rope
- connectors not secured
- back-up device too low
- use of main cow's-tail in situation greater than fall factor 1
- slack rope between tooth ascender and anchor point
- The challenge will finish when all of the conditions of the skill test have been completed.
- Unless specifically stated, the skill tests are designed to be undertaken using only the equipment normally carried by a rope rescue technician. All equipment used by teams in the skills tests will be examined by the assessing team with each FRS's Standard Operating Procedures being required to prove that all equipment carried by each individual complies with their own service policy.
- The lead assessor has the final decision over the items of equipment that may be used by the team.
- Once a challenge has started no further equipment may be sourced by the teams.