

SAFE PRACTICES FOR ROPE ACCESS WORK



Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians

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Notes for Usage:

Terminology from SPRAT's *Defined Terms* used in this document is shown in ***bold, italic*** type unless written in a primary section heading.

Usage of the word 'shall' denotes a mandatory requirement.

Usage of the word 'should' denotes a recommendation. The word 'should' does not connote indifference or ambivalence regarding a statement.

1. Purpose, Scope, Exceptions

1.1. Purpose

- 1.1.1. The purpose of this document is to provide accepted practices for rope access work.
- 1.1.2. This document is to be used in conjunction with SPRAT's *Certification Requirements for Rope Access Work* and SPRAT's *Defined Terms*.

1.2. Scope

- 1.2.1. This document provides practices and procedures to protect persons from the hazards associated with rope access work.
- 1.2.2. This document provides requirements and recommendations for establishing, administering, and operating within a comprehensive rope access program.
- 1.2.3. This document is written for all persons involved with rope access work, including clients, **employers**, **rope access technicians**, and regulatory authorities.

1.3. Exceptions

- 1.3.1. This document does not address the use of single **main systems** without **backup systems** in the course of planned work.
- 1.3.2. This document does not apply to technical rescue, emergency response, or emergency response training, except as provided in Section 16.

2. Rope Access Program Management

- 2.1. The **employer** has the overall responsibility for its rope access program.
- 2.2. The **employer** shall provide the resources that are necessary for the development, implementation, and operation of its rope access program.
- 2.3. The **employer** shall appoint a **Rope Access Program Administrator** to manage and direct the rope access program.
 - 2.3.1. The **Rope Access Program Administrator** should, at a minimum, have the knowledge and experience of a **Level III Technician**.
 - 2.3.2. The **Rope Access Program Administrator** shall have a working knowledge of relevant regulations that apply to rope access and working at height, and ensure implementation of all such requirements.
 - 2.3.3. The **Rope Access Program Administrator** should be knowledgeable about and experienced in supervising fall protection programs and in particular fall protection systems for rope access work.
- 2.4. The **Rope Access Program Administrator** is responsible for the development, implementation, and management of the **employer's** rope access program in accordance with Section 3.
- 2.5. The **Rope Access Program Administrator** shall be the main contact point for matters relating to the safety, training, and regulatory aspects of the rope access program.
- 2.6. When the **Rope Access Program Administrator** delegates a requirement of the rope access program to another **rope access technician** or appropriate personnel, the **Rope Access Program Administrator** remains responsible to verify the effective completion of the requirement.

3. Rope Access Program Requirements

3.1. General

- 3.1.1. A policy statement shall be developed and implemented that provides general goals and guidance for a rope access program that emphasizes the **employer's** commitment to providing a safe workplace for personnel engaged in rope access work.
- 3.1.2. Rope access program policies and procedures shall be documented and available to all affected personnel.
- 3.1.3. Policies and procedures shall be consistent with requirements of the **presiding regulatory authority** related to the work environment to ensure that such requirements are followed by all **rope access technicians** when conducting work.
- 3.1.4. Where a **presiding regulatory authority** has requirements that are stricter than this standard, those requirements shall be followed.