



**Australian Government**

**SISOCAY005 Establish ropes and belays  
for abseils in intermediate to advanced  
canyons**

**Release: 1**

# SISOCAY005 Establish ropes and belays for abseils in intermediate to advanced canyons

## Modification History

Not applicable.

## Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to select and set up belay systems and ropes suitable for abseils in intermediate to advanced canyons, and according to current conditions. It requires the ability to select the abseil route and to select and utilise fixed artificial, naturally occurring or artificial removable anchors.

It applies to rigging staff and activity leaders who work independently or with limited guidance from others.

This unit applies to any type of organisation that delivers outdoor recreation activities including commercial, not-for-profit and government organisations.

No occupational licensing, certification or specific legislative requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

## Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

## Competency Field

Canyoning

## Unit Sector

Outdoor Recreation

## Elements and Performance Criteria

### ELEMENTS

*Elements describe the essential outcomes*

1. Select route and equipment suitable for the canyon abseil.

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

*Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.*

- 1.1. Identify safe access to and egress from the pitch.
- 1.2. Determine descent and ascent route appropriate for conditions.
- 1.3. Select an abseiling and belay system suitable for the abseil, environmental conditions and participant.

- 1.4. Choose a belay device suitable for the canyon conditions and belayer.
  - 1.5. Select other equipment to suit abseil requirements participants.
  - 1.6. Complete safety and serviceability checks on equipment and tag faulty equipment according to organisational procedures.
2. Set up belay system for abseils in intermediate to advanced canyons.
  - 2.1. Select anchors and assess condition, including performance under likely load and stability of surroundings.
  - 2.2. Rig or establish multiple anchors, ensuring equalisation and minimise potential for shock loading.
  - 2.3. Select and tie appropriate knots, and rig ropes suitable for load and function within the belay system.
  - 2.4. Establish a belay from which belayer is independent of the system.
  - 2.5. Establish a belay that maintains safety of belayer and abseiler.
  - 2.6. Position top rope or bottom brake belay away from hazards, or remove as able.
  - 2.7. Determine need for, and establish, back up belay systems.
  - 2.8. Complete safety checks according to organisational procedures.
3. Rig rope pitches for canyon abseils.
  - 3.1. Rig ropes to minimise effects of rope stretch and rub points and to allow efficient descent and ascent.
  - 3.2. Rig retrievable abseil systems suitable for the top rope or bottom brake belay requirements.
  - 3.3. Set up anchors and ropes to allow for a rescue.
  - 3.4. Select and tie knots suitable for system type established.
  - 3.5. Minimise the risk of cross loading and mis-alignment of carabiners.
  - 3.6. Verify manufacturers' recommendations, equipment limitations and safety margins, and rig equipment accordingly.
  - 3.7. Rig to minimise impact on the natural environment.
  - 3.8. Complete safety checks according to organisational procedures.

## Foundation Skills

*Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.*

<b>SKILLS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Reading skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>interpret detailed familiar organisational procedures for completing safety checks.</li></ul>
Writing skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>use fundamental sentence structure to complete safety and serviceability forms and fault tags that require factual information.</li></ul>
Numeracy skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>calculate loads for anchors and ropes under normal conditions and in the event of a fall</li><li>visually estimate distances to calculate lengths for ropes.</li></ul>
Planning and organising skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>follow a logical equipment selection, rigging and checking process.</li></ul>

## Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

## Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guides -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>