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Standard Terminology Relating to Climbing, Mountaineering, Search and Rescue Equipment and Practices¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This terminology document is a compilation of definitions of terms, abbreviations, and acronyms that are unique to climbing, mountaineering, search and rescue collected in order to provide consistency in communication when used in actual operations, training, literature, and the statistical basis for rating a product's performance dealing with this field.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics

E1150 Definitions of Terms Relating to Fatigue (Withdrawn 1996)³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of General Climbing and Mountaineering Terms*:

3.1.1 **access**, *n*—the process of reaching the patients or subjects and establishing physical contact with them.

3.1.2 **aid climbing**, *n*—a technique of climbing that utilizes auxiliary devices as a means of ascent to supplement the natural features of the surface being climbed.

3.1.3 **belay**, *n*—a technique where a stationary person controls a rope connected to a moving climber in order to provide protection against a fall, or in the event of a fall, to catch the climber.

3.1.4 **belay**, *v*—to protect a climber with a belay.

3.1.5 **belayer**, *n*—a person who is belaying.

3.1.6 **bouldering**, *n*—a technique of climbing where climbers remain close to the ground and do not use a rope to safeguard their progress.

3.1.7 **brake bar rack**, *n*—a variable friction device consisting of a u-shaped metal bar to which are attached several metal bars that create friction on the rope. Also known as a rappel rack.

3.1.8 **chest harness**, *n*—a type of harness worn around the chest for upper body support.

3.1.9 **climber**, *n*—a person engaging in the sport of climbing and mountaineering.

3.1.10 **climbing and mountaineering**, *n*—the sport of ascending, descending, and traversing on mountainous terrain, snow and ice, and natural and simulated rock surfaces.

3.1.11 **climbing and mountaineering equipment**, *n*—the equipment exclusively designed for use in climbing and mountaineering.

3.1.12 **dynamic rope (rope systems)**, *n*—a class of ropes that is used for rescue work and rappelling when greater energy absorption qualities are required, such as in lead climbing or whenever a high fall potential exists. Such ropes are typically certified to UIAA or CE climbing rope standards.

3.1.13 **evacuation**, *n*—the process used to move the patient/subject between the completion of extraction and the beginning of transportation.

3.1.14 **extraction**, *n*—the process of removing the patient/subject from an immediately hazardous environment along with assessment, treatment, stabilization, and packaging.

3.1.15 **free climbing**, *n*—a technique of climbing that uses only the natural features of the surface being climbed. In free climbing, equipment may be utilized to provide protection in the event of a fall, but is not used to assist progress.

3.1.16 **john boat (maritime)**, *n*—a skiff with a flat bottom.

3.1.17 **lead climbing**, *n*—the skill of climbing first up a pitch, utilizing a belayer, climbing rope, and intermediate protection anchors.

3.1.18 **low stretch rope (rope systems)**, *n*—a class of ropes that is used for rescue work and rappelling with an elongation greater than 6 % and less than 10 % at 10 % of its minimum breaking strength.

3.1.19 **pike pole (maritime)**, *n*—a long, slender, hooked pole used by boaters to retrieve line, objects, and so forth from water. Also known as a *boat hook*.

3.1.20 **rappel**, *n*—the set up of anchors and equipment used to rappel.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F32 on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F32.01 on Equipment, Testing, and Maintenance.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard