



Module 2 – Abseiling Personnel

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2.0 Abseiling Leader Levels

There are seven (7) levels or grades of Abseiling Leaders depending on their ability, strength, experience, trust in their equipment and training. The first level whilst not counted as an Abseil Leader is show to complete the list. The levels are as follows:

- A. **Student / Participant** – The starting point of all abseilers. This is for those who undertake the sport and have no formal qualifications. Applies to new starters, cubs, scouts, venturers, rovers, leaders and any other person who simply acts as a participant.
- B. **Abseil Participant** – The first step in training and is only recognised in local team, formally known as qualified to Assistant Abseil Leader / Instructor, could assist an Abseiling Leader in abseiling activities. They have completed a minimum course of instruction. Minimum age for an Assistant Abseiling Leader is 15 years.
- C. **Abseil Guide (Basic)** – Nationally recognised as a Frontline Leadership (Scouting) - Basic Level III Certificate. Minimum age is 18 years and must hold a current First Aid Certificate. Must complete Activity Leader Basic (module 7 and 9) Core Training (can be exclusive of any warrant/sectional training), together with Abseiling Course (Topic 9 Specialised). This level is trained to and limited to man-made structures, specifically tower operations. Cannot lead or conduct an abseil activity but work as part of a team. Can participate in Cliff/Natural based activities under supervision. Base level of adult Abseil Leader qualification covering developmental time and normal will advance to the Abseil Guide (Advanced) as a minimum.
- D. **Abseil Guide (Advanced)** - Nationally recognised as a Frontline Leadership (Scouting) - Basic Level III Certificate or Advanced Level IV Certificate (WoodBadge). Minimum age is 18 years and must hold a current First Aid Certificate. Must complete Activity Leader Advanced Core (CORE 7 and 9) Training (exclusive of any warrant/sectional training), together with Abseiling Course (Topic 9 Specialised). Combines additional training components at a higher level and includes vertical rescue techniques, anchor systems, hauling and mechanical advantage. Cannot lead or conduct and abseil activity.
- E. **Activity Leader (Abseiling)** - Nationally recognised as a recognised as a Frontline Leadership (Scouting) - Advanced Level IV Certificate (WoodBadge) and Activity Leader (Abseiling). Minimum age is 18 years and must hold a current First Aid Certificate. Must complete Activity Leader Advanced Core Training (inclusive/exclusive of any warrant/sectional training), together with Abseiling Advanced (Topic 9 Advanced). May undertake the role of an Abseiling Leader and are qualified to lead and conduct abseiling activities.
- F. **Activity Leader (Abseiling) / Skills Leader** – As Activity Leader above, additionally involved in the training of youth and adult members as Abseiling Leaders as part of a training team . Must have completed and hold Train the Trainer Levels 1 and 2 and applied and accepted as a Skills Leader. Anticipated that they will progress through to national accreditation as an Instructor and/or assessor



- G. **Instructor (Abseiling)** - Nationally recognised as a Frontline Leadership (Scouting) - Advanced Level IV Certificate (WoodBadge) and Activity Instructor (Abseiling). Minimum age is 18 years and must hold a current First Aid Certificate. Must complete Activity Leader Advanced Core (7 & 9 basic and advanced) Training (inclusive/Exclusive of any warrant/sectional training), together with Abseiling Advanced (Topic 9 Advanced). May undertake the role of an Abseiling Leader and are qualified to lead and conduct abseiling activities. Additionally, involved in the training of youth and adult members as Abseiling Leaders. Must have completed and hold Train the Trainer Levels 1 and 2, Train the Trainer 3 (PLA). Have applied for and been accepted as an Instructor on the National Adult Leader Training Team. *(This level was formally known as the Senior Abseiling Instructor or the Abseiling Instructor.)* **(National Code level - Abseiling ABS 602 ACT.LDR.ADV- ABSEILING LEADER - may have following tag of Instructor)**
- H. **Assessor (Abseiling)** - Nationally recognised as Frontline Leadership (Scouting) - Advanced Level IV Certificate (WoodBadge, eligible to progress to Diploma level) and Assessor (Abseiling). Minimum age is 18 years and must hold a current First Aid Certificate. Must complete Activity Leader Advanced Core Training (inclusive of any warrant/sectional training), together with Abseiling Advanced (Topic 9 Advanced). May undertake the role of an Abseiling Leader and are qualified to lead and conduct abseiling activities. Additionally, involved in the training of youth and adult members as Abseiling Leaders. Must have completed and hold Train the Trainer Levels 1 and 2, Train the Trainer 3 (PLA) and Train the Trainer 4 Assessor. Must have applied and been accepted as an Assessor on the National Adult Leader Training Team and have provided a body of evidence. *(This level was formally known as the Senior Abseiling Instructor.)* **(National Code level - Abseiling ABS 602 ACT.LDR.ADV- ABSEILING LEADER - may have following tag of Assessor or Instructor/Assessor)**

2.0.1 Capabilities of Qualified Personnel

It is to be noted that all Abseiling Leaders of all levels **MUST** know and **NOT EXCEED** their own limitations and qualifications.

2.2 Tenure of Qualifications and Re-Examination

- A. All Abseiling Leaders, regardless of level, **MUST** be fully aware of current techniques, equipment and safety requirements at their respective levels before conducting **ANY** abseiling activity.
- B. Every Abseiling Leader **MUST** maintain a current logbook of his or her instructional activities.
- C. It is up to the individuals to maintain themselves in an appropriate degree of physical fitness for this activity.
- D. The Qualifications of Abseiling Leaders at all levels are valid for a period of three (3) years, following the guidelines of the VBAC policy. After three (3) years an Abseiling Leader may apply to the VBAC for RPL/RCC to maintain their qualifications.

2.3 Site Personnel

Each abseiling activity requires the following people:

- A. **Site Controller** - refer to section 2.4



- B. **Jumpmasters** - refer to section 2.5
- C. **Brakemen** - refer to section 2.6
- D. **First Aider** - refer to section 2.7
- E. **Participants** - refer to sections 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6

2.4 Responsibilities of the Site Controller

The Site Controller is responsible for the overall general safety, discipline, equipment and all personnel for the day's activity. The Site Controller therefore is the Leader in charge for the day's activity and all Scouts, Guides, Leaders and Activity Leaders on site are required to follow the directions given by this person.

- A. The Site Controller within the VBAC is a person who is responsible for the Duty of Care for all those involved or present on an abseiling site. This means that they must undertake to ensure the safety of everyone, including any parents or spectators who are simply watching the activity as well those participating.
- B. As such the Site Controller is an adult over the age of 18 years, and they must also be a current, fully qualified Activity Leader (Abseiling) or above.
 - 1. The Site Controller is responsible for the overall general safety, discipline, risk management / mitigation, environmental considerations, equipment and all personnel (OHS) for the day's activity. Must be an Activity Leader (Abseiling) or above.
 - 2. They are to be familiar with, and will check the following:
 - That the lines are in good condition and anchored correctly with sleeves fitted if necessary.
 - A First Aider and First Aid kit are on site and know their location.
 - If radios are to be used, check that the batteries are fully charged, if rechargeable, or have spare batteries available.
 - Rescue equipment is on site and serviceable.
 - All necessary Police and Ambulance services and Government authorities (if applicable) have been notified.
 - Risk Management Plan enacted and followed (inclusive of mitigation actions)
 - Equipment lists are checked at the beginning and end of each day.
 - Minimisation of any environmental impacts, planned contingencies.
 - Carries out periodical checks of all Abseiling equipment, anchor systems, during the activity, and completely re inspects the jumpsite after the group has been off site for any period of time. (eg Lunch etc.)
 - Supervise or performs any rescue activities.
 - Maintenance of Occupational Health and Safety considerations for all persons on or connected with the activity (inclusive of non-participants). Duty of Care.

2.5 Responsibilities of the Jumpmaster

- A. The Jumpmasters are responsible to the Site Controller.
- B. A Jumpmaster must be an Abseiling Guide (Basic) or higher or an Abseil Participant under the direct supervision of an Abseiling Guide (Basic). *Note: on natural cliff faces supplement Guide Basic for Guide Advanced.*
- C. They are responsible for the control and safety of all persons at the top of their



jump site. (OHS and Duty of Care as an Activity Leader/Management position)

- D. They are to be familiar with and check the following:
- That ropes (all lines) are in good condition and anchored correctly with sleeves fitted if necessary. Ensure environmental impact considerations are met in setting and using site and anchor system/s.
 - Rescue equipment is on site, serviceable and its location is known.
Note: Abseiling Participants cannot conduct rescues. Abseil Guides (Basic) may only under direct supervision of a Guide Advanced or above.
 - That the harness is in position and knots or buckles are done-up correctly.
 - The correct type of descender is chosen for the descent.
 - That the karabiner is attached to both the harness and the descender and that the screw gate is secure.
 - Each Abseiler has with them a pair of suitable leather gloves and helmet (*where applicable*).
 - Hair and jewellery tied back and secured.
 - The student is securely attached to the line.
 - Warning the Brakeman that a student is ready to descend.
 - Clothing and footwear are suitable for the intended jump site, tucked in and secured.

2.6 Responsibilities of the Brakeman

- A. The Brakemen are responsible to the Site Controller and the JumpMaster.
- B. A Brakeman must be an Abseiling Participant or an advanced Abseiler under direct supervision of a fully qualified Abseiling Leader (Basic) or above.
- C. They are responsible for the control and safety of all persons at the bottom of their jump site. Participants and non-participants (OHS and Duty of Care)
- D. They are familiar with and check the following (see section 6.4 for more details):
- Supervises the descent of students on their line.
 - Ability to apply the brake to assist a student, if difficulty arises.
 - Supervises the removal of the line rope from the descender.
 - Notifies the Jumpmaster that the line is clear.
 - Supervises the clearance of people from the rock fall zone.

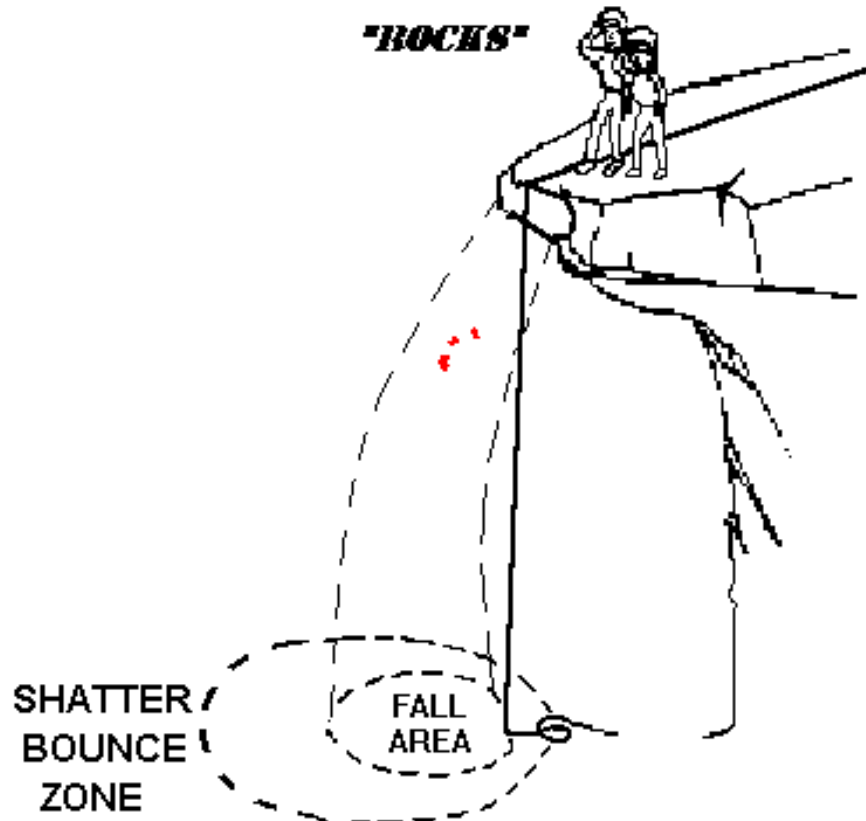


Figure 2-1 Rock Fall Zone

2.7 Responsibilities of the First Aider

- A. The First Aider is responsible to the Site Controller.
- B. The First Aider is to have a current First Aid certificate, minimum level being either a Senior Level First Aid or an Occupational, Health and Safety Level 2 certificate from a recognised teaching organisation.
- C. They must know the location and telephone numbers of the nearest telephone and Ambulance station / Hospital and be able to use the communication devices on site.
- D. They will ensure that a map of the site in use has been delivered to the Ambulance Service or that the Site Controller has done same.
- E. To be able to render assistance under all conditions, it is recommended that the First Aider be able to Abseil.
- F. The First Aider is to have in their possession the following items:
 - A First Aid Kit.
 - A Blanket.

2.7 Responsibilities of the Emergency Contact

It is essential that the person designated as the Emergency Home Contact either remains at home or at a place whereby they can be contacted if the need arises. The provision of a home or mobile telephone number is required.