

Practical Exercise Statement – Traverse 540 Belay

Time Allotted: 1 Hour

Purpose: The purpose of this exercise is to review the use of the Traverse 540 as a belay device.

Terminal Learning Objective: The student shall correctly rig the Traverse 540, and utilize it as a belay device during lowering and hauling operations.

Enabling Learning Objectives: Given an equipment cache, and following a period of instruction, the student shall:

- Correctly rig the Traverse 540.
- Manage the belay during hauling and lowering operations
- Describe the advantages of the 540 belay
- Describe the disadvantages of a 540 belay.
- Demonstrate how to release the belay when it has been loaded
- Demonstrate making the 540 belay “safe” by locking off the belay.

Equipment Needed:

- 100' – ½" rescue rope
- 1 – Large 'G' rated carabiner
- 1 – Anchor Strap or suitable anchor
- 1 – Traverse 540 device

Instructor's Notes:

This exercise is designed for 4-6 students. The instructor should begin by discussing the use of a Traverse 540 belay device. The instructor should highlight the anatomy of the device, as well as the proper break down and rigging steps for the device. The instructor should demonstrate the proper technique of “pulling Z's” with device, making sure to feed rope into the backside of the device for ease of operation. The instructor should demonstrate releasing the device with the control lever should the device become loaded. If a live load is not available, one student may act as a load by leaning on the rope and statically simulate lowering and hauling operations. Each student should perform belay operations for lowering and hauling.