ROPIES INTRODUCTION

Introduction: This document seeks to clarify:

1. What scenarios in the field require the use of specialized rope gear and techniques,
2. Identify the program structure, training and SOPs needed for a safe climbing program and
3. List the Oahu Army Natural Resources Program positions and which specific staff will be authorized to conduct tasks requiring ropes.

What field scenarios and specific OANRP tasks require the use of ropes?
Assuming circumstances including weather, equipment being carried, and substrate stability are normal; traversing steep terrain is part of the Position Descriptions (PDs) for all Natural Resource Management Technicians, Coordinators, Specialists & other OANRP staff. Some areas where we work are steep and precipitous so that a hand line or hand holds are needed to cross safely. This activity and all required safety considerations are covered by the Hiking SOP 25. This should cover techniques needed for most of the terrain the OANRP works in. There are three scenarios where authorized equipment and techniques can be used to access steep terrain for specific work tasks not covered in the Hiking SOP 25. These three scenarios are covered below:

a. Scenario where FALL PROTECTION gear and techniques are needed:
When working in areas that are steep enough so that a hand line or hand holds are needed, additional gear and techniques are necessary if both hands are needed to perform a task. For example: If a fence is proposed to be built down a steep but not vertical slope, staff may use trees, natural steps in the slope or a webbing hand line to access the slope to scope the route. However, when the fence is being built, staff will need both hands to pound posts and install fence along the same slope. When both hands are needed to perform a task on a slope that could otherwise be accessed with hand holds or a hand line under the Hiking SOP 25, fall protection gear and techniques as described in the Fall Protection SOP 30 are required.

b. Scenario where RAPPELLING gear and techniques are needed:
While most of the terrain we work can be accessed without the aid of ropes, some sites occur above or below cliffs and ropes are needed to cross obstacles to be reached. These work sites are steep enough so that they cannot be accessed safely using just hand holds and hand lines. Other sites occur directly on and around cliffs and ropes are needed to perform tasks on the cliffs such as rare plant and snail monitoring and collection, weed control, and fence construction. In addition, many of the hiking trails in Hawaii occur along steep terrain where a fall could present a rescue scenario that required the use of rappelling gear and techniques to respond quickly. This scenario would require that rappelling gear and trained staff are able
to respond to an accident in steep terrain. In these scenarios, rappelling gear and techniques as described on the Rappelling SOP 14 are required.

c. Scenario where TREE CLIMBING gear and techniques are needed:
When both hands are need to perform tasks in a tree more than six feet from the ground, tree climbing gear and techniques are described in the Tree Climbing SOP 27 are required.

OANRP Program structure, training and SOPs for safely using authorized rope techniques in the three scenarios described above.

a. FALL PROTECTION:
- **Structure**- Level 1 = Fall Protection Workers: authorized to conduct all Fall Protection techniques
- **Training**- Certification Class: Safety Systems Hawaii Fall Protection Class OR equivalent
- **SOP 30** - Tree Climbing

b. RAPPELLING:
- **Structure & Training**- See table below.
- **SOP 14** - Rappelling

c. TREE CLIMBING:
- **Structure**- Level 1= Tree Climbing Worker
- **Training**- Certification Class: Tree Climbing Techniques- A two day certification class instructed by Kevin Eckert of ArborGlobal. Recertification required every three years.
- **SOP 27** - Tree Climbing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRUCTURE</th>
<th>TRAINING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1= OANRP Rappelling Instructor- This position is authorized to conduct all rappelling tasks. In addition, will conduct certification classes for OANRP and other PCSU programs as needed. For OANRP, the classes will be for Site Manager, Rope Worker and Rope Emergency Response Staff.</td>
<td>Certification Class: Rappelling Instructor Course from a business/agency (Remote Medical International) that is approved by a professional mountaineering association (AMGA). Recertification by same external business/agency required every three years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2= OANRP Site Managers- This position is authorized to supervise rappelling activities. At least one Site Manager must be present during every rappelling operation.</td>
<td>Certification Class: Site Manager Course from OANRP Rappelling Instructor. Recertification required every three years. Rope Emergency Course recertification of demonstrated skills required every year.</td>
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| Level 3 = OANRP Rope Worker-  
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<td>This position is authorized to conduct rappelling tasks under the supervision of a Site Manager.</td>
<td>Certification Class: Rope Worker Course from OANRP Rappelling Instructor. Recertification required every three years. Rope Emergency Course recertification of demonstrated skills required every year.</td>
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| Level 4 = OANRP Rope Emergency Staff-  
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<td>This position is authorized to assist in using ropes in emergency situations while under the supervision of a Rope Worker OR Site Manager. Specifically, techniques such as basic knot tying, setting up and using the haul system are authorized, but rappelling and other rope work is NOT AUTHORIZED at this level.</td>
<td>Certification Class: Rope Emergency Course from OANRP Rappelling Instructor. Recertification of demonstrated skills required every year.</td>
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**Positions and staff authorized for working with ropes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Protection</th>
<th>Rappelling</th>
<th>Tree Climbing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRMC, Fence Worker, NRMS</td>
<td>NRMC, NRMS, Fence worker</td>
<td>NRMC, NRMS, NRMT</td>
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