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Standard Terminology Relating to Search and Rescue¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This terminology standard is a compilation of definitions of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in the search and rescue field collected in order to provide consistency in communication when used in actual operations, training and literature dealing with this field.

2. Terminology

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

belayer, *n*—the one who performs the belay.

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.

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

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

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

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F-32 on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F32.06 on Terminology.

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