



Vertical Rescue Directive

Version 1.0 – May 2008

1. The State Rescue Policy stipulates that accreditation is required for vertical rescue. The conditions for accreditation are set out in this Directive.
2. The *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* defines a ‘rescue unit’ as comprising a registered crew of competent and current rescue operators, an appropriate and clearly marked rescue vehicle, sufficient and appropriate equipment for the tasks for which the unit has been accredited, and procedures for call-out, response, operation and training.
3. Vertical rescue can be a stand alone specialist accreditation, without the need for those specialist units to also carry out road crash rescue.
4. In developing and maintaining vertical rescue capability, rescue units and agencies are to adopt a risk management approach. Each unit’s training, vehicles, equipment and procedures are to be sufficient and appropriate to address the risks that exist in the unit’s area of operation.
5. It is each agency’s responsibility to ensure that the training, vehicles, equipment and procedures are sufficient and appropriate for the local risks.
6. State Rescue Policy stipulates that the minimum crew required to respond to a rescue incident is two accredited and registered operators. As a general principle, the minimum number of personnel in a vertical rescue team should be appropriate for the rescue task at hand, and determined using a risk management approach.
7. Qualified vertical rescue operators must have the following competencies from the Public Safety Training package:

PUASAR001BA Participate in a rescue operation

PUASAR004B Undertake Vertical Rescue

PUAEME001B Provide emergency care

PUAEME002C Manage injuries at emergency incident

PUAOHS001C Follow defined occupational health and safety policies and procedures

PUAOHS002B Maintain safety at an incident scene

PUAOPE002B Operate communication systems and equipment

PUACOM001C Communicate in the workplace

PUACOM002B Provide services to clients

PUATEA001B Work in a team

PUATEA004C Work effectively in a public safety organisation

PUALAW001B Protect and preserve incident scene

8. Units and agencies are able to pursue further, more advanced training to address any additional risks or agency-specific operational requirements.
9. Agencies need to ensure that their operators maintain competence through regular training, exercising and operational deployment.
10. Multi-agency training activities are encouraged by the State Rescue Board as a means of exchanging ideas, improving inter-operability, and developing capability.
11. Agencies are to ensure that all vertical rescue equipment is fit for purpose and meets appropriate standards.