CANYON’S DEEP WATERFALLS

STRETCHER LOWERING TECHNIQUES

by

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THREE DIFFERENT SYSTEMS TO RESCUE A STRETCHER ON A LONG CANYON’S WATERFALLS

- **A** - TOP TO BOTTOM MULTIPLY ROPE JOINTED.
- **B** - BELAY TO BELAY with 60m ROPE.
- **C** - JOINTED ROPES (> 120m) SKIPPING INTERMEDIATE BELAYS.
• **A-Top to Bottom, Multiple Ropes Jointed**

**PRO:**
- **FAST**

**CONS:**
- **MANYropes needed**

**WHERE TO:**
- **Long Overhanging Pitches Without Ledges.**
• **B-BELAY TO BELAY** with 60m ROPE

**PRO**
- EASY LATERAL SHIFTS.
- ONE ROPE NEEDED.

**CONS**
- SLOWER.

**WHERE TO**
- DEEP LOW ANGLE PITCHES, WITH LEDGES.
• **C- JOINTED ROPES (> 120m) SKIPPING INTERMEDIATE BELAYS.**

**NOTE**
- **BEST COMPROMISE BETWEEN “A” AND “B”**

120 m.
SAFETY BASICS:

- IF POSSIBLE, THE STRETCHER HAVE TO BE LOWERED FAR FROM THE WATERFALL.

- A LINE FOR SINGLE ROPE WALKING TECHNIQUE HAS TO BE EQUIPPED TOP TO BOTTOM.

- STRETCHER AND OPERATORS HAVE TO AVOID LOOSE ROCK AND POSSIBLE ROCK FALL TRAJECTORIES.

- RADIO CONNECTION HAS TO BE ALWAYS AVAILABLE.
LOWERING TECHNIQUES

• 10mm SINGLE ROPE STATIC TYPE «A» EN 1891

• AN OPERATOR FOLLOWS THE STRETCHER, ABSEILING ON THE LINE.
• PREFERRED LOWERING DEVICE IS “OKA”, EASY TO LOCK ROPE

ADDITIONAL FRICTION
IN PRESENCE OF SHARP ROCKS OR RISKS ROCK FALL, WE LOWER THE STRETCHER WITH TWO TENSIONED ROPES

- WE LOWER THE STRETCHER IN VERTICAL POSITION IF NEARBY OR INTO THE WATER FALL.
- WE LOWER THE STRETCHER IN VERTICAL POSITION AT HIGH RISKS OF ROCK FALL,
- THE RESCUE OPERATOR THAT Follows THE STRETCHER DURING THE OPERATON.
THANK YOU

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