

Canyoning tech tips

1 Beware of flood risk

Evaluate the risk of flooding based on the weather and the chosen canyon. Identify possible escape routes.

2 Know how to move through whitewater

Canyoning is fun, but water is nevertheless the biggest danger. Also, the group is not tied in.

Be certain you know the high-risk zones: whirlpool, sump, suction, compression, driving current.

Warning: If there's a problem, you only have a few seconds to intervene. Don't lose sight of your partners.

3 Check each other

With routine and fatigue, we become less cautious. Stay alert. Check the rope installation, the set-up of the descent...

4 Prepare your rappel carefully

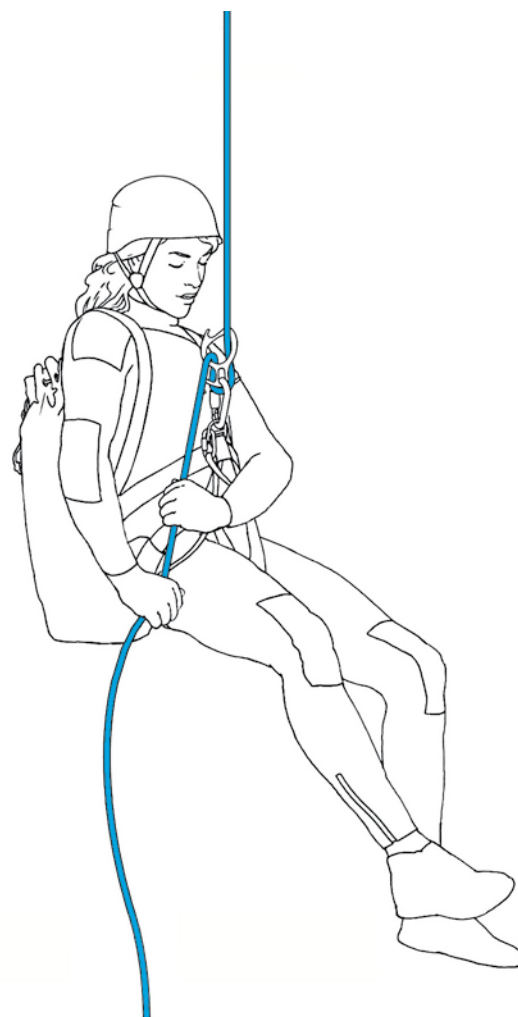
Is the rope long enough? (Have a rope that is twice the maximum length of the longest drop and another rescue rope that is equal to the longest drop).

Is the anchor solid? Beware of old slings and spinning bolts.

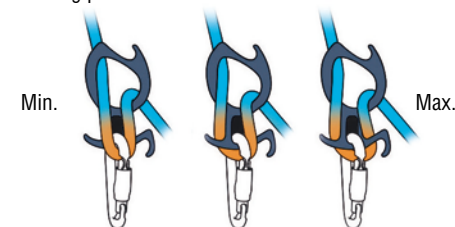
5 Study the bottom before jumping or going down on a slide

The first person goes down and inspects the landing zone with a mask for sufficient depth, hidden obstacles, etc.

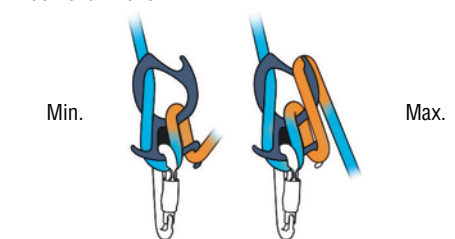
A. Rappelling



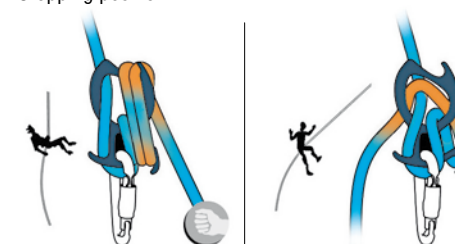
Braking positions



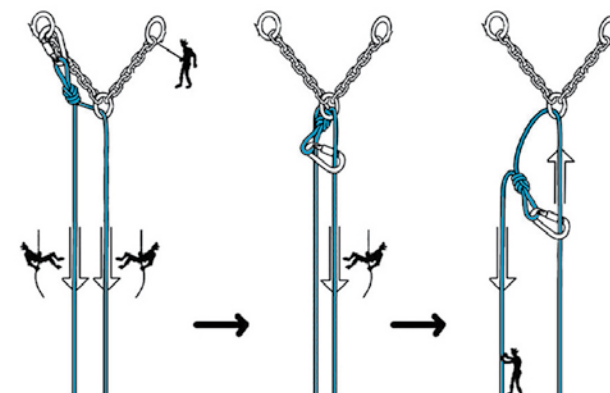
Additional friction



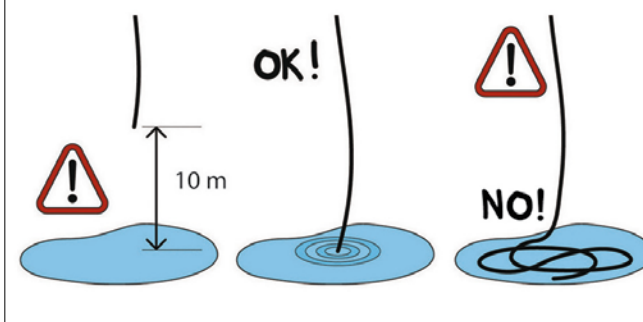
Stopping position



Blocked rappel



Make sure the length of the rope is correctly adjusted.

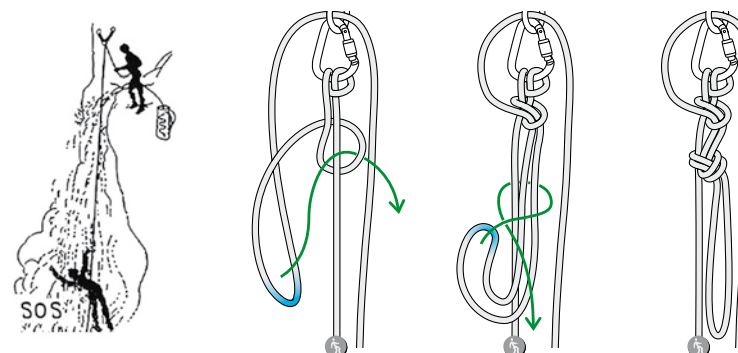


Releasable rappel

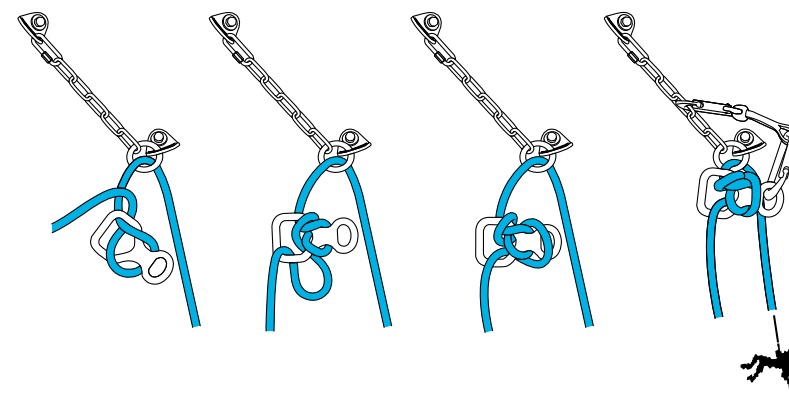
These systems allow the friction point of the rope on the rock to be moved or to release a stuck team member.

Two solutions:

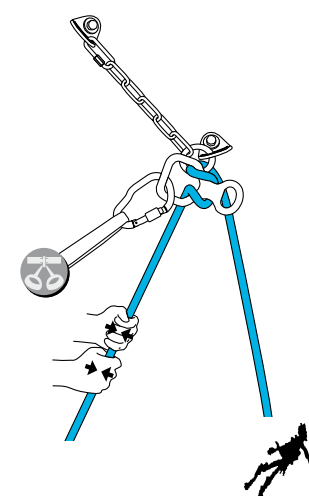
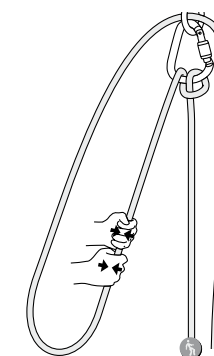
- Munter hitch with mule knot and blocking knot



- Releasable block using a Figure-8 device.



Releasing a stuck partner.

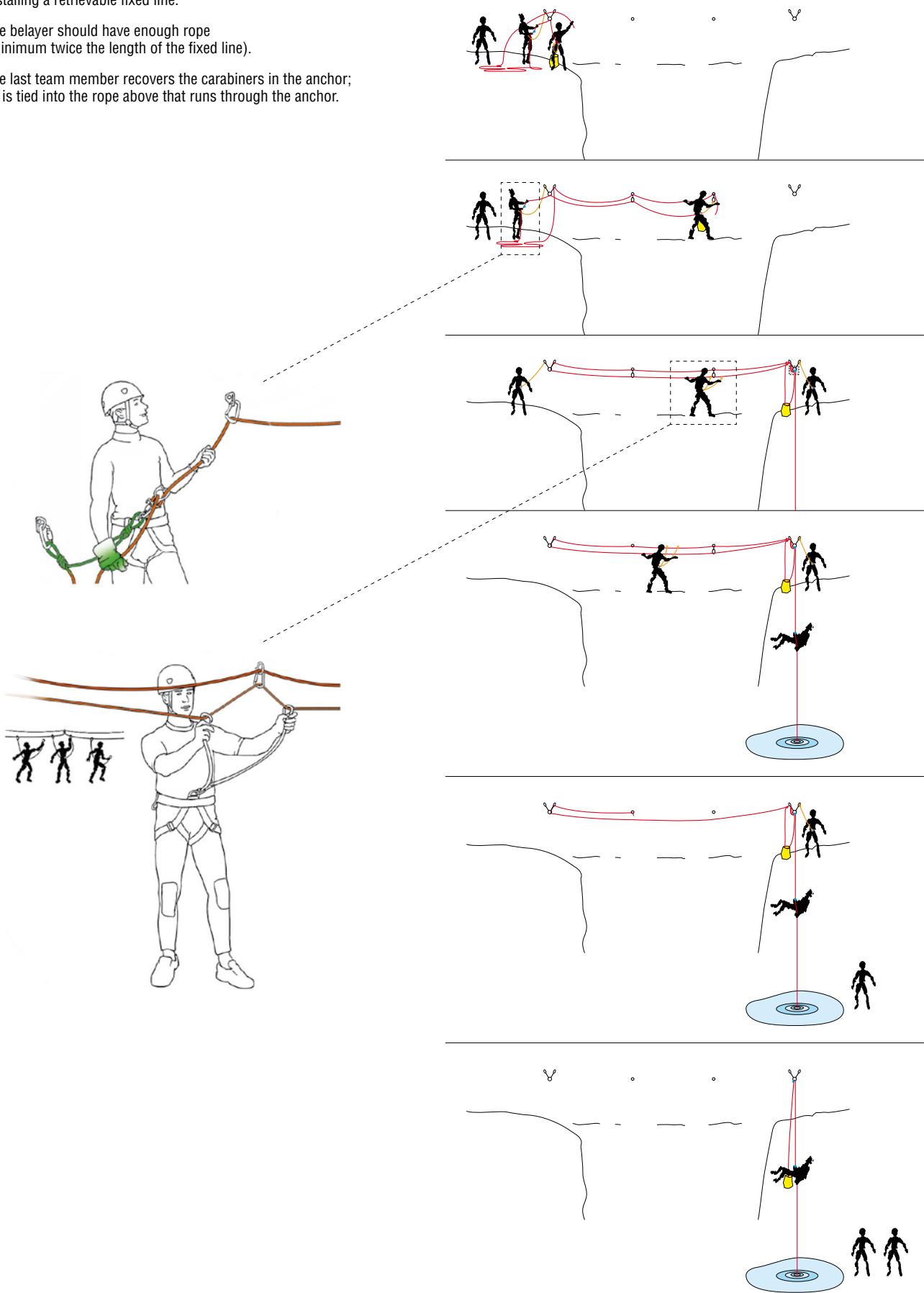


B. Horizontal progression

Installing a retrievable fixed line.

The belayer should have enough rope (minimum twice the length of the fixed line).

The last team member recovers the carabiners in the anchor; he is tied into the rope above that runs through the anchor.



C. Communication



Stop



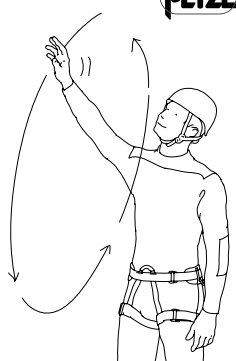
Dangerous obstacle



Rope is too long,
take up slack.



Rope is too short,
pay out slack.



Release! Rope is too short
or your partner is stuck.

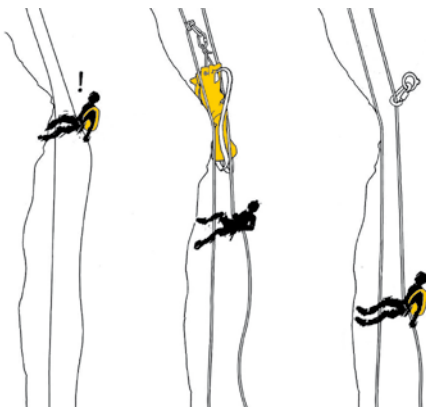


D. Study the bottom before jumping

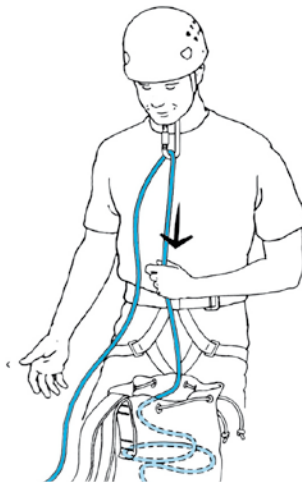
Before jumping or sliding down, always inspect the landing.



E. Protecting the rope



F. Preparing the kit



Guided rappel technique.
Photo © Jocelyn Chavy

