

Code of Practice of the York University Cave and Pothole Club

1. Single Rope Technique (SRT)

Before taking part in a caving trip involving the use of SRT, I understand that I must have practised in the sports centre and be capable of the following:

- 1.1 Safe and controlled abseiling.
- 1.2 Safe usage of traverse lines.
- 1.3 Setting up and checking my SRT kit.
- 1.4 Passing re-belays.
- 1.5 Passing deviations.
- 1.6 General pitch safety e.g.
 - a) rope free calls
 - b) aware of the dangers of loose rocks
 - c) "below" calls
 - d) not standing directly under pitches
 - e) consideration of water
 - f) one person on rope at a time

2. Rigging

When rigging I should be aware of the following:

- 2.1 The ropes should be clear of water and mud.
- 2.2 The rope should not be wearing against rocks.
- 2.3 Ropes should be attached to at least two sound belays.
- 2.4 Damaged or worn rope should not be used and should be marked as so.
- 2.5 Ease of access should be kept in mind.
- 2.6 A stopper knot should be tied to the end of the rope.
- 2.7 Eco/P hangers should be checked for 2mm rotation.
- 2.8 Spits should also be checked before use for wear and lack of rotation.

3. Team Work

As a team member I will express any opinions on matters concerning the safety of the caving trip. This might include:

- 3.1 Danger of flooding.
- 3.2 Inexperienced or incompetent member(s).
- 3.3 Poor equipment.
- 3.4 Dangerous rigging e.g. rub-points, unsound re-belays.

I will not do anything to put either myself or other members of the team at risk.

4. Experience and Training.

I will follow the advice of more experienced cavers. This includes them suggesting the trip is unsuitable for me for any reason including lack of training. I will also inform the experienced members if I feel the trip is unsuitable for me.

Regular attendance to training after the first term is essential to build experience. Training will consist of a wide range of activities that I will regularly practice. I will only go on trips that I have had sufficient training for.

5. Leadership

Leadership is an ability that will be established within the club, i.e. assuming no prior experience of leadership of new members. On each trip a named leader must be present. This leader must be felt to be competent by other members of the club and team.

They will be responsible for:

- 5.1 Organisation of trip, including all necessary equipment is packed.
- 5.2 The safety of themselves and the other team members.
- 5.3 Having the final say on decisions that need to be made, especially with regard to issues that arise.
- 5.4 Ensuring callout is made and cancelled.

6. Call Outs

For all caving trips a call out will be placed with a reliable person who will contact the AU and emergency services if necessary.

Details will include:

- 6.1 Name and location of cave.
- 6.2 Route through cave.
- 6.3 Number in party.
- 6.4 Expected time in and out of cave and time by which the party should phone.
- 6.5 Type, colour and number plate of car or minibus.

The call out MUST be cancelled after exiting the cave.

7. Incidents

If cave rescue is needed to be called:

- 7.1 Call 999, pass on all relevant details to the CRO
- 7.2 Access the injured person(s) emergency medical information from the container/website.
- 7.3 Contact AU Health and Safety Officer and AU President.

8. Conservation

I will not leave litter including spent carbide, remove rocks or plants or animals from the cave. I will not damage cave formations.

9. Protection of Equipment

I will try to avoid damaging/losing any of the equipment. All damages/losses will be reported to the equipment officer and trip leader. All ropes will be checked in the third term of each year and replaced after a period of five years. The replacement schedule of safety critical equipment is to be followed. The club reserves the right to charge the caver(s) for damage to any club equipment.

10. Sports Centre Safety

Training in the dry and well-lit sports hall is essential before going caving. It allows close monitoring of novices while learning SRT techniques and the practising of problem areas. Re-belays and deviations can be learnt under supervision. It is also very important for the more experienced members to practise techniques such as hauling rigs, mid rope rescue, casualty evacuation and equipment failure. Also difficult re-belays and tight deviations can be practised.

The following should be observed:

- 10.1 Novices should be supervised at the top of the sports centre.
- 10.2 People climbing ladders should be belayed at all times.
- 10.3 People using high level traverse lines should be protected using a belay rope.
- 10.4 Problems should be practised at a low level.
- 10.5 At least one person in gear should be present at ground level.