

Rope Access

Rope access provides a safe, cost-effective, and efficient means of accessing structures and geologic features for inspection, maintenance, and construction.

The Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians (SPRAT®) based in the United States, is dedicated to promoting the safe development of industrial rope access standards in the US, Canada, Mexico and beyond.

SPRAT supports companies and technicians using rope access with certification programs, regulatory support, networking, and opportunities to participate in developing industry-consensus standards.

Membership in the organization is open to any company or individual that uses rope access. Current members include a broad cross-section of commercial industry, professional services, and government agencies.

SPRAT History

SPRAT was established in the mid 1990's to address the needs of a growing number of companies and operators employing rope access techniques in North America. While various forms of rope access had been used in industry for decades, the development of modern rope access systems collided with the growth of industries that provided conventional means of access such as scaffolding and swing-stages. These conventional methods required standard fall arrest systems.

Without specific standards and legislation in North America to support rope access systems, companies and operators were at times prevented from working by safety managers and legislators. SPRAT's development of industry consensus standards, including Safe Practices for Rope Access Work and Certification Requirements for Rope Access Work, has raised the awareness of the safety and effectiveness of rope access systems.

These standards paved the way for California's Department of Industrial Relations effort to create one of the first laws sanctioning the use of rope access systems in North America. Since then, Alberta and New York City have followed suit with support from SPRAT and its members. Since 2001, over 1300 rope access technicians representing dozens of companies and government agencies have been certified to SPRAT standards.

The Future of Rope Access

- Cost effectiveness of rope access
- Exponential growth in SPRAT certifications and company involvement
- Extensive growing interest and certifications outside the US
- Continued support of all workers that work on rope
- Continued input into Safe Practices for Rope Access Work
- Continued work by SPRAT members to interface with OSHA to keep rope access viable
- Input into ANSI Z359 Fall Protection for Rope Access



To receive an application for membership or to find out more about SPRAT, please contact:

SPRAT

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Access Anywhere



Membership Advantages

All SPRAT members enjoy the following:

- Regular updates and industry news via the SPRAT quarterly newsletter
- Involvement in the development of industry standards
- Networking resources via the members only page of the website and through attendance at SPRAT meetings and conferences
- Representation to regulatory agencies on issues involving use of rope techniques for access

Membership Categories

Corporate Membership

This category is open to organizations that employ rope access personnel, provide rope access services or consulting, manufacture or distribute rope access equipment, or provide rope access training in either a for-profit or not-for-profit operation. Corporate members are regular members with voting rights and receive the following:

- 3 additional individual listings in Directory of Members
- 3 individual discounts on conferences and materials

Sustaining Membership

This category is open to organizations that employ rope access personnel, provide rope access services or consulting, manufacture or distribute rope access equipment, or provide rope access training in either a for-profit or not-for-profit operation. Sustaining members are regular members with voting rights.

Associate Membership

This category is open to individuals who are engaged in rope access work or providing rope access education. Associate members are regular members with voting rights.

Subscribing Membership

This category is open to organizations and individuals that do not qualify as sustaining or associate members but wish to receive information on the society's projects. Subscribing members are entitled to such standards, reference documents and publications as SPRAT develops and the Board of Directors approves. Subscribing members are non-voting members of SPRAT.

SPRAT Documents

Safe Practices for Rope Access Work

Designed to provide guidance for rope access technicians, employers, and clients regarding general safety requirements for rope access work.

Certification Requirements for Rope Access Work

Describes in detail the technical skill and theoretical knowledge requirements needed to obtain certification to all levels of Rope Access Technician.

SPRAT Meetings and Conferences

SPRAT's annual conference is held every January. The program features technical presentations of interest to rope access professionals, the annual rope access olympics, and plenty of networking opportunities.

In-depth discussions include the future of the rope access industry, regulations, techniques, new technology and new opportunities in rope access. The annual meeting provides an energetic forum for rope access professionals to present and learn from ideas from many perspectives.



SPRAT Certification

A SPRAT certification provides instant recognition and credibility for the Technicians who carry it, and the companies who invest in it. In turn, companies that hire rope access services will look for the SPRAT certification, and will know you offer the industry's best in technical achievement. Each certification is comprised of a written, oral and performance based standard and is designed to provide each candidate with an unbiased and fair evaluation of their skills.

SPRAT Certification Levels

Level I Technician (Rope Access Worker)

An individual who performs rope access work under the direct, on-site supervision of a Rope Access Lead Technician or Supervisor.

Level II Technician (Rope Access Lead Technician)

An individual who is responsible for physically conducting rope access operations and/or safety evaluations of rope access operations, including maintenance of associated access equipment and performs all Rope Access Lead Technician duties as assigned in the employer's rope access work program.

Level III Technician (Rope Access Supervisor)

An individual who is responsible for the overall rope access work site and performs all Rope Access Supervisor duties as assigned in the employer's rope access work program.