



California Association of Tactical Officers

Tactical Rope Operations Instructor (Rope Master)

Date: 05/11/2026 - 05/14/2026

Tuition: \$1038

POST Control #: 1185-33579-25001

Location: San Jose Fire Department Training Center
San Jose, CA 95112

Instructors: Dana Vilander

Course Description:

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This course prepares experienced SWAT personnel to instruct Tactical Rope Access (or equivalent) within their teams. Students will develop the skills to train others in current equipment, rope access standards, ascending and descending techniques, rescue operations, anchor systems, and PACE (Primary, Alternate, Contingency, Emergency) planning. The curriculum also incorporates adult learning principles and modern instructional methods. Participants will teach practical blocks throughout the week and complete a 60-minute team-taught presentation as a final evaluation. This is an advanced instructor-level course; proof of prior completion of a basic rope course (e.g., TRAC or SPRAT/IRATA equivalent) is required.

Training Description:

In addition to the information above, all students must have the requisite safety equipment as listed below:

Course Required Equipment:

Laptop

Harness

Helmet

Gloves

Entry Vest/Plate Carrier

Gas Mask

Long-gun – can be blue/red gun with sling

Duty Uniform or Street Clothes

Notebook and Pen/Pencil

4-6 Carabiners of their choice – self-locking preferred

Descender that their own agency uses

Edge restraint – manufactured or tied

Prusik sling – sewn or tied 7 or 8mm or VT Prusik – 7mm by Bluewater

25’ of 1” tubular webbing

16’ of 6mm cord – Sterling Xtec or Bluewater Searchline

1 Rope Grab – Tibloc, Ropeman2, etc

1 Pulley – Petzl Rollclip, Petzl or Rock Exotica mini pulley, etc

1 Progressive Capture Device – Petzl MicroTraxion or similar

Register online at catotraining.org

Questions? Contact CATO's Training Coordinator
Desiree Harrington: dharrington@catotraining.org