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User Instructions - 199 Series Descent Device

This document serves as the Manufacturer's Instructions, and is to be used as part of an employee training program for the system, as required by OSHA.

ATTENTION: The user **MUST** be trained before using this product. Use this manual as part of a user safety training program that is appropriate for the user's occupation. These instructions must be provided to users before use of the product and retained for ready reference by the user. The user must read, understand (or have explained), and follow all instructions, labels, markings and warnings supplied with this product and with those products intended for use in association with it **FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

*****Warning:** Read, understand, and follow all instructions. Failure to do so may result in serious injury or death. Do not use unless properly trained. It is the employer's responsibility to ensure that all users are properly trained in the proper use, inspection, and maintenance of fall protection equipment.

The FrenchCreek Production 199D series kit is designed to provide a means for a worker to perform a self-rescue from an aerial bucket or to rescue another worker from elevated height. This kit and its components must not be used for any other purpose.

KIT CONTENTS

The 199D kit consists of the following components: One (1) 199D Descender Unit with Carabiner, one (1) properly threaded 7/16" diameter Rope fixed at one end, one (1) 354-2 Locking Carabiner attached to Rope, and one (1) Unit Storage Bag.

NOTE: Training Recommendation

- For training purposes, as well as during use, it is mandatory that a stopper knot be tied in the rope to aid in the prevention of the trainee making contact with the ground in the event of improper use of the product.
- The stopper knot should be adjusted to a height so that the trainee's feet can only make slight contact with the ground, however, the stopper knot should be adjusted low enough that the trainee can stand and disconnect.
- The use of the stopper knot is always mandatory. Care should be taken for proper placement of the stopper knot along the free end of the rope for any different situation.

INSPECT PRIOR TO USE

- Before each use it is mandatory to check the device and verify that all its components (handle, pivoting pulley, side plates, etc.) are in good working condition. The rope must be inspected for any signs of deformation, deterioration, signs of wear, or any condition that may cause the system to work improperly.

- This device must be used only by specially trained and competent personnel who have been trained specifically on this device and understand the possible fatal implications of its incorrect use.
- Refer to Inspection and Repacking section for full inspection details.

USER INSTRUCTIONS FOR DESCENT/SELF RESCUE

- Ensure that the rope is threaded properly through the descender following the diagram shown on the device itself and also in these instructions (Figure 1). When installation is complete, assembly should look similar to the illustration in Figure 1.
- Attach the descender to the full body harness so the handle cannot compress against the body.

*** **NOTE:** When using a “cross-over” style harness, attach the double locking carabiner directly to the connection point at the chest.

- Drop the storage bag with remaining rope to the ground, being careful not to come in contact with power lines or objects on the ground.
- Test the function of the descender with the handle released (position 1, Fig. 2) by pulling upward on the rope (the end with the locking carabiner) to ensure the brake mechanism is working properly. Perform the same test with the handle squeezed completely (position 3, Fig. 2) while again pulling upward on the rope to ensure the brake mechanism is working properly. With the handle squeezed halfway (position 2, Fig. 2) the rope should slide smoothly through the descender in this position.
- At no time should the device become impact or shock loaded. Gently transfer the user’s weight onto the descender system.
- To Rappel, slowly squeeze the handle toward the body of the descender with one hand to the midpoint (position 2, Fig. 2) while the other hand controls the free end of the rope. Any resistance applied to the free end of the rope will help control the rate of descent. Lifting upward on the free end of the rope will increase resistance and considerably slow the rate of descent.
- Proper usage of the descender will allow descent at a controlled, safe rate. The maximum speed of descent should not exceed 6.5 ft/sec. If the user’s weight is in excess of 265 lbs., the maximum speed of descent should not exceed 3.3 ft/sec. By increasing pressure on the handle, the user will activate the braking position (position 3, Fig. 2) and the descent will be stopped or considerably slowed. Releasing the handle completely (position 1, Fig. 2) will also activate the braking feature.

USER INSTRUCTIONS FOR EVACUATION/RESCUE - FROM A FIXED POINT

- Remove the descender with attached double-locking carabiner from the storage bag and connect the carabiner to a suitable anchor point.
- Connect the locking carabiner, attached to the rope, to the victim’s rappelling loops or front connection point on harness.
- Ensure that device is threaded properly through the descender following the diagram on the device itself and also in these instructions (Figure 1, Figure 3).
- Test the function of the descender with the handle released (position 1, Fig. 2) by pulling downward on the rope (the end with the locking carabiner) to ensure the brake mechanism is working properly. Perform the same test with the handle squeezed

completely (position 3, Fig. 2). Squeeze the handle to the midpoint (position 2, Fig. 2) while again pulling downward on the rope to ensure the rope slides smoothly through the descender in this position.

- Pull up on the free end of the rope, taking up the slack between the victim and the descender. DO NOT impact or shock load the descender.
- While holding onto the free end of the rope, which extends from the descender, cut the victim's fall arrest lanyard. DO NOT impact or shock load the descender.
- Once the victim is being supported solely by the rope and descender, lower the victim to safety by squeezing the handle with one hand while using the other hand to control the free end of the rope.

USER INSTRUCTIONS FOR DESCENT - ASSISTED BY RESCUER

- Ensure that the rope is threaded properly through the descender following the diagram shown on the device itself and also in these instructions (Figure 1). When installation is complete, assembly should look similar to the illustration in Figure 1.
- Attach the descender to the full body harness so the handle cannot compress against the body.

*** **NOTE:** When using a “cross-over” style harness, attach the double locking carabiner directly to the connection point at the chest.

- Drop the storage bag with remaining rope to the ground, being careful not to come in contact with power lines or objects on the ground.
- Test the function of the descender with the handle released (position 1, Fig. 2) by pulling upward on the rope (the end with the locking carabiner) to ensure the brake mechanism is working properly. Perform the same test with the handle squeezed completely (position 3, Fig. 2) while again pulling upward on the rope to ensure the brake mechanism is working properly. With the handle squeezed halfway (position 2, Fig. 2) the rope should slide smoothly through the descender in this position.
- At no time should the device become impact or shock loaded. Gently transfer the user's weight onto the descender system.
- To Rappel, slowly squeeze the handle toward the body of the descender with one hand to the midpoint (position 2, Fig. 2) while the other hand controls the free end of the rope. Any resistance applied to the free end of the rope will help control the rate of descent. Lifting upward on the free end of the rope will increase resistance and considerably slow the rate of descent.
- Proper usage of the descender will allow descent at a controlled, safe rate. The maximum speed of descent should not exceed 6.5 ft/sec. If the user's weight is in excess of 265 lbs., the maximum speed of descent should not exceed 3.3 ft/sec. By increasing pressure on the handle, the user will activate the braking position (position 3, Fig. 2) and the descent will be stopped or considerably slowed. Releasing the handle completely (position 1, Fig. 2) will also activate the braking feature.
- Rescuer will descend until his location is just above the fallen worker (Figure 4). Rescuer will attach to fallen worker and transfer the fallen worker's weight to the rescuer. Do not impact or shock load the descender system. Disconnect the fallen worker from their fall protection system. Rescuer can now descend with the fallen worker at a rate of descent of not more than 3.3 ft/sec.

***** WARNING: The stop feature is a convenience for temporarily stopping on descent and not to arrest a free fall.**

WARNINGS

User must read, understand and follow all instructions and warnings attached and/or packed with this product before use.

- This equipment is intended for use by properly trained professionals only.
- Before use ensure that rope is properly installed in the descender and all other components. Perform an operational test by loading with your bodyweight.
- When descending, descent must be controlled with one hand on the free end of the rope and the other hand on the body controlling the handle of the descender (see Fig. 4)
- Failure to do so could result in serious injury or death.
- Ensure a stopper knot is tied in the end of the rope to prevent the descender from slipping off the rope.
- Anchor points must support a minimum of 5000 lbs per attached worker.
- Loads in excess of 330 lbs are not recommended due to high impact forces on anchor point of the system and integral parts of the descender.
- Avoid rubbing against abrasive surfaces and sharp edges.
- Use this product only in combination with compatible equipment.
- Equipment subjected to impact loading must be immediately removed from service, destroyed and discarded.
- Always visually check that the snap hook/carabiner freely engages the anchor point and the keeper or gate is completely closed. Never rely on the feel or sound of a snap hook or carabiner engaging.
- Observe the positioning of the carabiner. Ensure that the keeper or gate is NEVER bearing a load.
- Ensure loads applied to carabiners are directed in the proper orientation.
- Never disable the locking mechanism on the carabiner. Never punch holes or alter a connecting device or any part of a fall protection, rescue/recovery kit, or safety kit in any way.
- Do not let any part of this kit come into contact with any chemicals, corrosive materials, acids or basic solvents.
- Wearing gloves during the use of this product is highly recommended.
- Employer must instruct employees as to proper use, warnings and cautions before use of this equipment.

MAINTENANCE

- Proper maintenance and storage of your equipment will prolong its useful life and contribute toward its performance. Clean the equipment with water and mild soap and allow it to dry thoroughly without using excessive heat.
- Apart from visual examination of product before and after each use, it should be inspected at least once a year by an authorized person.

*** Maintenance should be performed by FrenchCreek Production or an authorized FrenchCreek Production agent only.**

INSPECTION

- Prior and after each use, carefully inspect each component. The inspection should include, but not be limited to the following:

Inspecting the Descender

- Inspect for cracks, distortion, corrosion, nicks or burrs. Make sure the rope is woven through the descender correctly as illustrated on the unit and in these instructions. Inspect for proper operation of both the brake mechanism and the descent handle mechanism. Also make sure that the rope slides smoothly through the unit when the handle is depressed to the midpoint (position 2, Fig. 2).

Inspecting the Rope

- Inspect for cuts, kinks, abrasions, burns, broken fibers, chemical or physical exposures, excessive wear or discoloration. Inspect termination eye for excessive wear, abrasions, or broken fibers where the rope attaches to the carabiner. Inspect for broken, missing or unraveling thread on the whipped end.

Inspecting the Carabiner

- Ensure locking device and keeper/gate operate freely and smoothly. Inspect for cracks, distortion, corrosion or nicks.

***** Warning:** If any evidence of wear or deterioration as outlined is observed, immediately cease use, destroy the product, and replace it with new equipment. Should any unusual conditions not outlined above be observed or you have reasonable doubt about a particular condition, remove the equipment from service and notify your supervisor, safety director, or contact FrenchCreek Production for clarification.

***** Warning:** Failure to carefully and completely inspect your equipment could result in serious injury or death.

***** Note:** An inspection log should be maintained by a competent safety officer, indicating the products that were inspected, their findings, and disposition.

REPACKING

- Ensure a figure 8 stopper knot is tied in the free end of the rope. Start by feeding the rope (the end with the figure 8 stopper knot) into the storage bag. This ensures the rope will not become tangled when the bag is dropped from an elevated surface. Remove the descender from the storage bag and weave the rope through the descender as shown in Fig. 1.
- Inspect the descender to ensure the rope is correctly woven through and the brake mechanism is functioning properly. Place descender, remaining rope, and carabiners into the bag. Finally, place the instruction sheet in the bag and seal with drawstring closure. Make sure the instructions are packed in the storage bag prior to each use.

FIGURE 1 - Feeding the Rope into the Descender

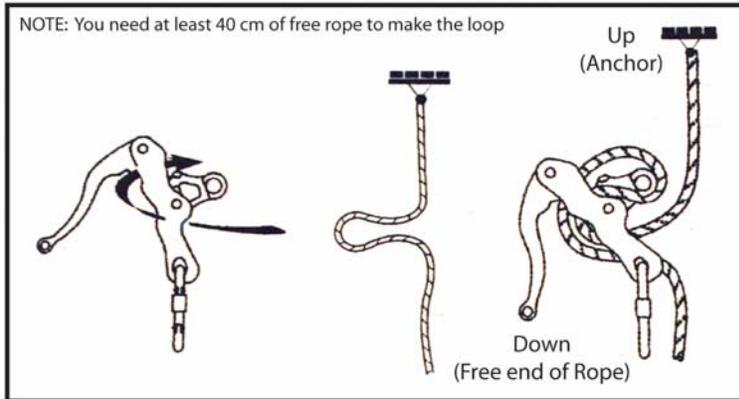


FIGURE 2 - Functioning Principles

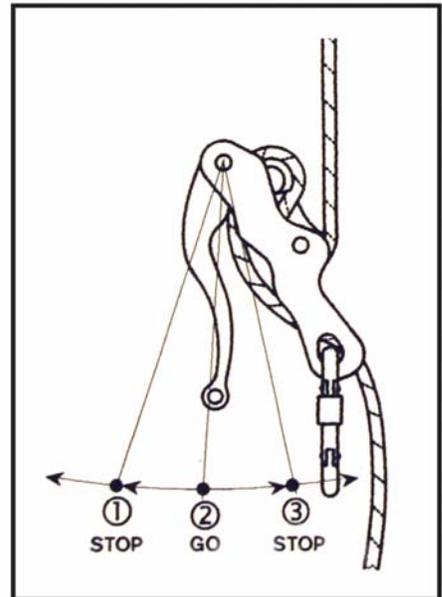


FIGURE 3- Rescue: Evacuation from a fixed anchor point

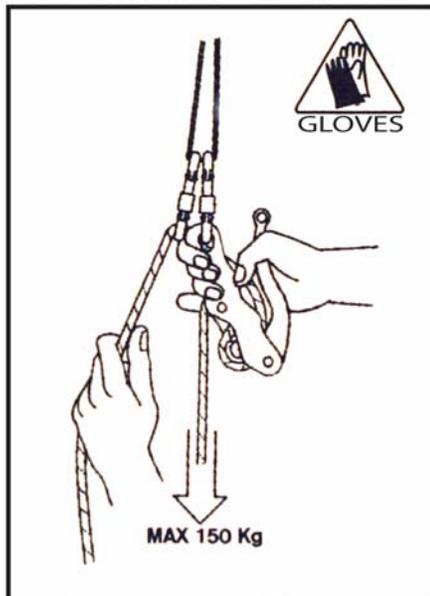


FIGURE 4- Rescue: Descent Assisted by Rescuer

