

ROPE ACCESS



Oceaneering is a leading provider of multi-disciplined Rope Access services to many industry sectors including Oil, Gas, Power, Petro-Chemical and Construction. Applications for Rope Access are constantly evolving, work is not limited by height or inclination and can be implemented far beyond the limitations of conventional fall arrest systems and at a reduced cost to many traditional access methods.

Rope Access

Rope Access is considered to be any work technique adapted to be deployed from ropes, which would normally require either scaffolding or a mechanical access platform.

Rope Access in its infancy was developed using predominantly caving single rope techniques, and adapted for Industrial use to be safer by using two ropes. The second rope acts as a back up line with a mobile fall arrestor that travels with the technician to “arrest” his fall should anything happen to the working rope that supports his weight.

Rope access has been used throughout industry and has proven to be the safest method of access a fact substantiated by the recent release of accident records from IRATA.

Industrial Rope Access Trade Association (IRATA)

IRATA was formed in the late 1980's, as the result of an initiative by a number of leading companies involved in industrial rope access techniques, to provide a safe working environment for industry. Safety is paramount, and since its formation IRATA and its member companies have worked assiduously to:

- Improve safety in industry
- Produce an industry standard set of guidelines and training requirements
- Produce a comprehensive assessment and registration process for operatives.

Much of this work has been carried out in close liaison with the Health and Safety Executive (UK). This has created an effective framework within which, in the decade that IRATA has been collecting safety statistics, there have been NO major or fatal accidents amongst its members. The incident rate for members is consistently well below that of other industries during the same period. Rope access provides an effective, efficient and economic means of access. However it must be carried out in a proficient and safe manner.

- Oceaneering Asset Integrity has been a full member of IRATA since October 1990
- All Oceaneering Rope Access technicians are IRATA qualified



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Team Structure

The requirement for three members in an access team is to ensure the strict adherence to safety procedures. The majority of Rope Access tasks are of a complex nature and have varying degrees of exposure. The Level 3 is an integral part of the team who in addition to his working role provides supervision to ensure the safety of the team. He will also monitor the team's progress and can be required to adapt the access system throughout the tasks. In an incident the Level 3 is responsible for initiating the rescue. Three team members ensure that should one technician be injured then the remaining two can facilitate the rescue.

If the work were extremely straightforward then a two-person team would be acceptable. A straightforward situation could be defined as a straight drop requiring no re-belay deviation or traversing. Complexity of the work task to be carried out will also be a factor.

The Level 3 is responsible for the safety of the team throughout access operations and no rope access work can be carried out without a level 3 being present. The Level 3s responsibilities include:

- Risk Assessment
- Lifting Plans Method Statements
- Collation of Paperwork
- Compliance of Equipment
- Implementation of Permits

The remaining members of a team form an essential and integral role to ensure safety of themselves and any adjacent personnel. This includes the team's responsibility to ensure all work areas are safely protected and that all equipment is used in the appropriate manner.

Services

Oceaneering Asset Integrity is an industry leader in the provision of Non-Destructive Testing and Inspection services. We offer an unparalleled portfolio of inspection techniques all of which can be deployed by our multi-disciplined Rope Access technicians.

Conventional NDT

- Ultrasonic Inspection
- Radiography
- Magnetic Particle
- Dye Penetrant
- Eddy Current
- Visual Inspection

Specialised Inspection Services

- Alternating Current Field Measurement (ACFM)
- Computed Radiography
- Corrosion Mapping
- Guided Wave Technology
- Time Of Flight Diffraction (TOFD)
- Phased Array

