



Special Needs FAQ

We can accommodate almost all special needs. In saying that however, we will need to know the details of their needs beforehand in order to properly prepare. Some special needs (such as a wheelchair rappel for example) require specific gear to be shipped in addition with our regular gear. Please note that some special needs rappels take up more than 1 Edger spot. Here are some general guidelines:

WHEELCHAIR: If an individual would like to rappel in a wheelchair, we would need to know by at least 30 days out. Special considerations will need to be made regarding rigging beforehand. Historically, most wheelchair rappels have been performed off of davit arms or scaffolding. They can be done off of our tripods, but there are several factors which need to be addressed prior. Easy access to the roof/edge and also egress options once the rappel is completed is also a consideration. Obstacles like a high parapet, cobblestone roof or ladder hatches can slow things down. A wheelchair rappel will require additional rigging time since extra ropes will need to be hung and extra personnel will be needed in aiding the participant over. Please note that most wheelchair rappels take up several Edger spots.

LIMITED USE OF LIMB/PROSTHETIC: If the individual has limited use of an extremity, they may still be able to lower themselves under their own power. If that is the case, this may only require a small modification to the equipment or rigging. This can also hold true to individuals who are missing a limb, or have a prosthetic. Prosthetics will need to be attached in a way that there is no chance that they can come off the individual during the rappel. In special circumstances, the prosthetics can always be tethered. In the event the individual has limited mobility, considerations will also need to be made with regards to access, edge negotiation and egress. This may or may not require an additional Edger spot.

INDIVIDUALS WITH PHYSICAL OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES: We have had fantastic experiences on rope with individuals with different kinds of physical and intellectual disabilities. Our experience has been that either the individuals themselves, or their caregivers, know exactly what they need in order to be successful. Usually the process starts with a conversation to clearly outline expectations. Oftentimes individuals only require some additional coaching. Other times, one of our technicians may choose to rappel with the individual to give them coaching or assist during the rappel. This may or may not require an additional Edger spot.