

Press release

June 29, 2021

# CANYONING AND RELEASABLE ABSEIL SYSTEMS TESTING CAMPAIGN

Following experience, feedback, incidents and accidents involving Releasable Abseil Systems (sometimes known as Contingency Anchors) used in canyoning, The French Federation of Caving in partnership with the CREPS Montpellier, CREPS Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and testing laboratory ENSA assembly equipment are pleased to present to you the completion of the "Canyoning and Releasable Systems" test campaign.

This testing campaign sought to answer the following questions: **Do different Releasable Anchors currently used meet the functional requirements? Do these systems also have the level of security necessary for the practice of canyoning ?**

All tests were carried out using methods recommend by the manufacturer's instructions as of 20 January 2021 or as illustrated in technical canyoning manuals.

At time of testing, **it was revealed that some Releasable Anchor Systems do not fulfill their expected function and do not have an acceptable level of security in all circumstances.**

**Furthermore, some of the Releasable Systems expose the practitioner to danger - falls and an inability to release the decent rope during an abseil or aiding a swimmer.**

As a result, there appears to be a need to change how Releasable Abseiling Systems are used:

- **For the individual:** the testing campaign proposes technical developments to fix the problems identified.
- **For the manufactures:** the results have been communicated to each of the manufacturers used during testing, to allow them to make changes to their product. As a result, some of the manufacturers have already adjusted their documentation – see their respective website for further details.

## RESULTS OF THE CAMPAIGN:

A video «Canyoning and Releasable Abseil Systems Testing CAMPAIGN»

LINK



An accompanying document detailing results.

LINK

