



# Hosting a Direct Action Vertical / ITRA

## Tactical Ropes Course



Direct Action Vertical has its own vertical training center located in Redmond, Oregon, near the Cascades mountain range. We are adjacent to public lands, which facilitates our tactical tracking / mountain operations courses. We also have access to the Bend fire tower, the Crooked River High Bridge, and various locations and structures in the national forest nearby.

However, we can, and do, export these courses anywhere in the world. If you are interested in hosting a course at your location, here are a few things to consider.

**Enrollments:** For export courses we bring to you, there is generally a minimum of 5 paid enrollments. The cap is usually 10 for qualification courses (assessments), but in some attendance based courses, we can go to 12. If you have less than the minimum interested in the course, and still want to host it, let nearby agencies know about it in an effort to fill the course. We may be able to discount some slots based on the class filling. (Only law enforcement / military / or trainers for such may enroll in tactical courses.)

**Travel:** We will drive out to you if within 12 hours. This allows us to bring a large equipment trailer that can easily stock a full class, and bring many extra items for you to train with. If you are further than that, we have to fly to your location, which means airfare, extra luggage, and less equipment we can travel with. We will speak on the phone about details in this case. Lodging has to be accounted for in either case.

**Instructor to Student Ratio:** The minimum is a 3:1 ratio. There is a 3 instructor minimum. If the course involves assessments and night operations, or high risk structures, this can go to 2:1. Safety is paramount, and when we do night operations, live fire drills, NLTA, or protester scenarios on bridges, trees, etc., it is imperative we have rescue qualified instructors at every location students are operating.

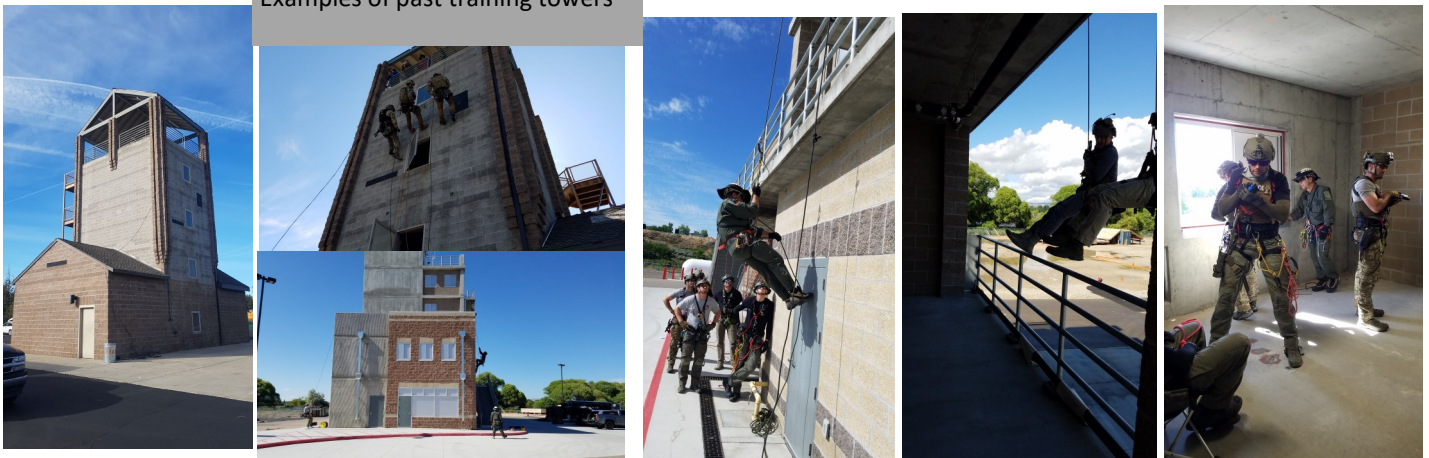


**Classroom:** Small classroom where briefings and a short PPT presentation can occur. Need not be fancy. A projector screen helps. For instructor courses, there is a requirement for audio-visual aides, so dry erase boards, easels, projectors are required.

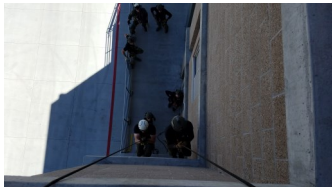
**Tower:** Rappel, fire tower, structure at least 3 stories high with roof access. Should have windows with no glass on 3 floors that can be opened, through which we can make entry. Helps if it has a balcony and an overhung section so ropes can hang free in space.

Tower must be accessible at night and permit airsoft, Non Lethal Training Ammunition (NLTA- simunitions), and blanks can be fired. Tower should be able to stay rigged overnight. If the tower has lights, they must be able to be shut off for night operations.

Examples of past training towers



**Night Operations:** All qualification / assessment courses require a night exercise. This makes for a long day. If there are overtime concerns, etc., have this worked out in advance. The night evolution is a role player based scenario and frequently involves blank firing guns, smoke, and officers with NVD's on the outside of the building. The location must be suitable for this. We typically de-conflict this through local 911 dispatch in case observers report suspicious behavior. If the structure for night operations is near residential areas, or sensitive installations, coordinate appropriately so a complaint is not generated.



**Firearms Range:** Weapons management on rope is also an assessed learning objective. Part of each course is a live fire orientation where officers can hang suspended by rope and practice engaging targets for cover situations. At no time will students fire live weapons while MOVING of rope. This is unrealistic, extremely dangerous, and ineffective.

A firearms range with a steel skeet tower can work for this purpose. We have also gone to public lands or private lands with permission, where students can be rigged out of short trees for this purpose. Student will only be 4 or 5 feet above the ground, where a firearms instructor can still reach and coach the student. Area must be capable of being secured in a safe manner, with a mineral back stop for the steel targets.



If a firearms range or shooting area is not readily accessible, NLTA may be used instead. It would be the agency's responsibility to provide the NLTA weapons and ammunition.

Both hand guns and short barreled rifles are used for these drills. Full range PPE is required. All weapons must have a sling or lanyard.

**Other Considerations:**

- What is nearest airport? (if more than 12 hours drive away)
- Hotel near training area.
- Will you provide ground transportation if we have to fly, or will you authorize the expense of a rental car?
- If we drive there, is the tower area secure to leave an equipment trailer (locked up).
- Are special passes / badges needed to access your secure installation? If so, send administrative requirements early.
- Are there any firearms restrictions in your state or area for instructors to carry firearms?
- Are permits needed to train on any bridges, in parks, or structures that require fees or advance authorization?
- Does any agency, park, or department need to be named as other insured on our policy. If so, we need to know early and how they exactly need to be listed.
- To whom do we send an invoice to? Name, email, and phone number.

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