

## Oregon Region Report from the Oregon Mountain Rescue Council

More current information can be found on each team's web site or at the Oregon Mountain Rescue Council's web site at <http://corvallismountainrescue.org/omrc/>

### State-Wide Mountain Rescue Volunteer Hours

The following tables list the total state-wide volunteer hours for mountain rescue related activities and specific SAR categories that would most likely use mountain rescue assets. The data are collected by each county sheriff and report time for mountain rescue related training and missions or time spent in a mountain environment by any SAR asset, not just a MRA accredited team. The data are pulled from the annual report on search and rescue made by the State of Oregon's Office of Emergency Management, Search and Rescue Program. The full annual report can be downloaded at:

[www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/tech\\_resp/sar.aspx#Statistical\\_Data\\_for\\_Oregon](http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/tech_resp/sar.aspx#Statistical_Data_for_Oregon).

#### State-wide volunteer hours spent in mountain rescue activities or a mountainous environment

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>All Hours</b> <sup>1</sup>	6,163	7,367	5,543	7,388	12,193	14,705	12,532	8,364	12,153	13,141
<b>Missions</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,491	4,013
<b>Training</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,662	9,128

<sup>1</sup> Volunteer hours for missions and training are lumped into one number until 2013.

#### Volunteer hours for SAR mission categories that would likely use mountain rescue assets

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Climbing Hours</b> <sup>1</sup>	2,568	3,001	1,840	1,593	2,101	1,663	1,413	1,552	4,070	2,078
<b>Climbing Missions</b> <sup>2</sup>	19	19	18	15	19	23	26	24	23	22
<b>Hiking Hours</b>	5,918	9,869	7,054	9,390	20,845	9,909	8,559	10,843	11,822	8,853
<b>Hiking Missions</b>	98	96	93	136	153	130	138	158	173	141
<b>X-County Ski Hours</b>	113	434	50	366	996	1,617	311	300	480	548
<b>X-County Missions</b>	7	16	3	6	15	12	9	8	11	6
<b>Snowboard Hours</b>	189	152	210	530	821	793	2,521	163	425	10
<b>Snowboard Missions</b>	8	6	8	13	7	13	19	5	8	7
<b>Other Snow Hours</b> <sup>3</sup>	253	1,035	863	526	432	912	218	1,174	442	898
<b>Other Snow Missions</b>	6	16	10	10	9	14	10	17	6	10
<b>Caving Hours</b>	-	-	-	-	-	91	13	80	17	16
<b>Caving Missions</b> <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	2	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Total number of volunteer hours spent on climbing related missions by all SAR assets in Oregon, not just hours from a MRA team.

<sup>2</sup> Total number of climbing related missions in Oregon. Not all missions necessarily have MRA team participation.

<sup>3</sup> "Other Snow" may include snowshoeing, sledding, etc., but does not include snow mobile use.

<sup>4</sup> The 0 values do not make sense and no one could explain them, but that is the value listed in the annual report.

## Re-Accreditation Activities

Re-accreditation for 2014 was supposed to be technical snow and ice rescue, but there was no snow to be had in practically the entire state. Fortunately, there were a few options still available, such as Mt. Hood or Mt. Bachelor. The Oregon Mountain Rescue Council spent many hours discussing how to have a snow re-accreditation with so little snow available for a re-accreditation site, but finally settled on the Mt. Bachelor area. Mt. Bachelor is the location for a large ski resort and the area management was very cooperative and allowed the re-accreditation to take place in their boundaries on a nearby cinder cone that actually had snow on it. The scenario was developed and coordinated by Portland Mountain Rescue and the Hood River Crag Rats and Eugene Mountain Rescue assisted with evaluation duties and operation of the scenario.



The Deschutes County Mountain Rescue Unit and Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit both went through the re-accreditation, with DCMRU in the morning and CMRU in the afternoon. The scenario created by PMR was a challenging one, especially for resource management and patient care. There were a total of seven subjects in the scenario. One subject was the reporting party, one subject had injuries requiring spinal precautions and technical evacuation, another subject had injuries requiring transport in a litter, three “subjects” were buried avalanche beacons that required locating and recovery and a final “subject” that was a buried target with no beacon and required probing to locate and recover.

Both teams did well and passed the re-accreditation with very few areas for improvement.

## Region-Wide Statistics

The following are cumulative values for four of the five Oregon Region teams for 2014.

Number of Deployable MRA Members = 155

Number of Missions = 62

Number of Training Events = 212

Number of Mission Hours = 3,292

Number of Training Hours = 11,489

Number of Technical Missions = 27

Number of Search Missions = 35

Number of Body Recoveries = 8

## Individual Team Reports

The following are individual reports for each Oregon Region team that provided information for 2014.



**Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit**  
**PO Box 116**  
**Corvallis, OR 97339**  
**Email: [info@corvallismountainrescue.org](mailto:info@corvallismountainrescue.org)**  
**Web: <http://corvallismountainrescue.org/>**

Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit had a productive year in 2014 filled with a mix of good trainings, challenging missions, and fun times together.

CMRU was involved with several missions this year, both locally with other SAR teams and providing mutual aid to other MRA teams.

One mission stood out in 2014, a joint mission with other Oregon MRA teams on Middle Sister mountain. The mission was complex due to the remote nature of the location, rapidly deteriorating weather conditions, and unconfirmed LKP. Ultimately, with our partners from the Oregon Army National Guard, we were able to transport a team, locate the subject, and return the subject to their families, providing needed closure. A job well done by the Oregon MRA teams working in tight coordination with each other.



Training wise, the Unit sponsored a Peak Bagging weekend in June with the goal of getting members up on as many Cascade Range peaks as possible. We had a great weekend and covered 9 Oregon mountains. The Unit also took part in a joint ice training with other Oregon MRA teams on Mount Hood in September practicing ice climbing skills.

CMRU continued our relationship with the National Park Service at Crater Lake National Park where we conducted a search for a subject who had fallen in to the lake caldera in the winter months.

At the MRA conference in June, one CMRU member was recognized for his contributions to the MRA and the Oregon Region receiving an award from the MRA President.

Outreach and community engagement continue to be important to CMRU. In 2014 the unit gave several talks to Wilderness First Responder courses and Boy Scout/Cub Scout groups. The Unit also provided first aid and communication support for several local trail running races.

The first quarter of 2015 for CMRU was filled with intense preparation for our Technical Snow and Ice Recertification, held on March 21<sup>st</sup>. 2015 was difficult in that Oregon saw hardly any snow; luckily we were able to travel to both Mt Hood and Mt Bachelor for trainings. The recert day went well. CMRU was presented

with a scenario that stretched the team-thin and challenged our members. In the end, we passed and were happy with our performance.

Onwards and upwards!



Number of Deployable Members = 22  
Number of Missions = 13  
Number of Training Events = 54  
Number of Mission Hours = 561  
Number of Training Hours = 2,649  
Number of Technical Missions = 6  
Number of Search Missions = 7  
Number of Body Recoveries = 3



**Deschutes County Mountain Rescue Unit**  
**PO Box 5722**  
**Bend, OR 97708**  
**Web: <http://www.dcsarinc.org/default.aspx>**

Deschutes Mountain Rescue Unit is organized as a specialty unit under the umbrella of Deschutes County Sheriff's SAR. As a result of this affiliation, the Deschutes MRU members are active in a wide variety of SAR functions in addition to traditional mountain rescue activities. Members participate in medical, swift water, snowmobile, ATV, ground search, winter (snow) missions and overhead functions.

This past period has been largely focused on preparation for our rock and search module reaccreditation (May 31 2014) and our winter module reaccreditation (March 21 2015) All of which were completed successfully.

2014 included several noteworthy missions. Beginning with an avalanche fatality on Paulina Peak. Several falls and injuries within Smith Rock State Park, including the mid-face litter scoop of an injured climber on the third pitch of Zebra Zion. And finishing 2014 with the initial response to Middle Sister for a fallen climber and his climbing partner.

We continue to train in house members as AIARE instructors, in an effort to create more realistic, fiscally responsible, and quality Search and Rescue based avalanche training.

Cave rescue continues to be near the top of our training list. We now host large scale, annual in-cave scenarios for field personnel and overhead staff. We are very pleased with the progress we have made and we are awaiting our first opportunity to showcase this new skill set.

Number of Deployable Members = 29  
Number of Missions = 14  
Number of Training Events = 45  
Number of Mission Hours = 980  
Number of Training Hours = 3,405

Number of Technical Missions = 8

Number of Search Missions = 6

Number of Body Recoveries = 2



**Eugene Mountain Rescue**

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EMR did not submit a report for 2014.



**Hood River Crag Rats**

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Rat Review 2014:

Compared to 2013, the Crag Rats had a relatively quiet year. Possibly the main reason for this is new signage in the Eagle Creek Area of the Columbia River gorge where there have been several injuries over the last couple of years. It's good to know that people are paying attention and can be a little more safety conscious.

The highest profile event was unfortunately a body recovery of a New Jersey priest on the north side of Mt. Hood. This mission took several days and involved many Crag Rats. We do have extensive details if needed. The Rats also assisted in a Mt. St. Helens body recovery. Other than those two incidents we did not have to deal with any serious injuries or other deaths. The Rats were involved on another multi-agency body search near Mt St Helens of a victim who had been missing from the previous year. No recovery was made. Another Crag Rat assist occurred in December in the Frog Lake area, but victim was not found.

The rest of the activity involved finding lost hikers. In one case a hypothermic ten year old girl was found. Fortunately, one of our members, a mother of a 9 year old herself brought clothes that would fit and the patient was returned safely.

We had a busy training year. First aid, CPR, GPS, patient packaging were among the subjects we covered. We were also re-certified for high-angle rock rescue.

Number of Deployable Members = 42

Number of Missions = 17

Number of Training Events = 14

Number of Mission Hours = 722

Number of Training Hours = 877

Number of Technical Missions = 6

Number of Search Missions = 11

Number of Body Recoveries = 2 and 2 not recovered



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In 2014 Portland Mountain Rescue (PMR) saw a decrease in our mission workload over 2013. Even though we saw an increase in technical missions this was offset by a decrease in search missions. We only conducted one body recovery in 2014 after a heavy year of body recoveries in 2013

Visit <http://pmru.org/press-room/mission-summaries/> for a summary of all our mission activity. Our most challenging mission in 2014 was a body recovery in the Queen's Chair area of Mt Hood with the Crag Rats in May.

We donated 126 hours to wilderness clean-up events during the year. PMR only accepts new members every two years and this year we welcomed six new trainees into our two year academy.

In 2014 we did a complete overhaul of our unit website to refresh the content and make it easier for the public and our members to find necessary information.

Number of Deployable Members = 62

Number of Missions = 18

Number of Training Events = 99

Number of Mission Hours = 1,029

Number of Training Hours = 4,558

Number of Technical Missions = 7

Number of Search Missions = 11

Number of Body Recoveries = 1



Update May 2015

In 2014 and 2015 PMR performed two missions involving subjects who fell into an active fumarole on Mt. Hood. Due to changes in snowpack some of Mt. Hoods fumaroles are appearing sooner in the climbing season in high traffic areas. PMR spent a considerable amount of time researching the various issues/risks associated with entering fumaroles and rescuer safety. Recently PMR purchased a portable air quality monitor to measure the dangerous gases near these fumaroles and developed protocols for working around the Mt. Hood fumaroles.