

Mountain Rescue Teams



❖ What Is A Mountain Rescue Team?

- As an example, here is an Oregon mountain rescue team's mission statement:

“Offers assistance, without charge, for search and rescue in difficult areas and high-angle terrain. Skilled volunteers with mountaineering experience, trained in the many facets of technical alpine search and rescue, are available around the clock.”



❖ What Qualifies A Mountain Rescue Team?

- The Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) is the only US organization that offers national accreditation for mountain rescue teams
- MRA accreditation is for an entire team, not personal accreditation
- MRA accreditation exceeds FEMA Type I Mountain SAR & Wilderness SAR, NFPA 1670, NFPA 1006 and ASTM F2209 standards



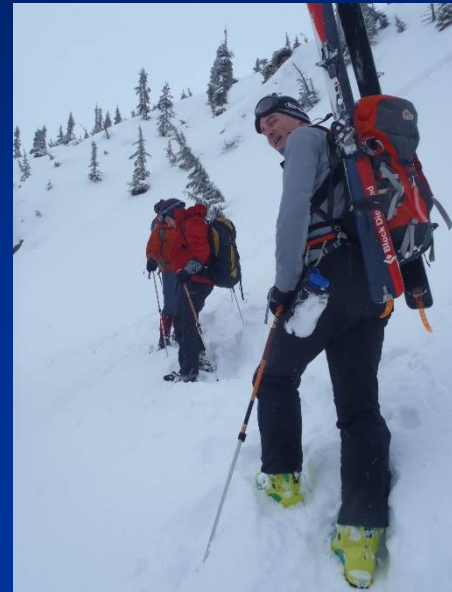
❖ The Mountain Rescue Association

- Founded in 1958 for volunteer mountain rescue groups to train in and maintain the highest level of SAR skills used in the most adverse terrain and conditions
- 100 teams in 8 Regions in the US
- Over 2,000 individuals in the US
- “The Mountain Rescue Association is an organization of teams dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education.”



❖ What Is MRA Accreditation?

- Accreditation consists of three modules:
 - Technical Rock Rescue
 - Technical Snow and Ice Rescue
 - Wilderness Search Operations
- Re-accreditation in all modules is required every five years
- Accreditation standards and criteria are provided by the MRA and approved by each MRA Region



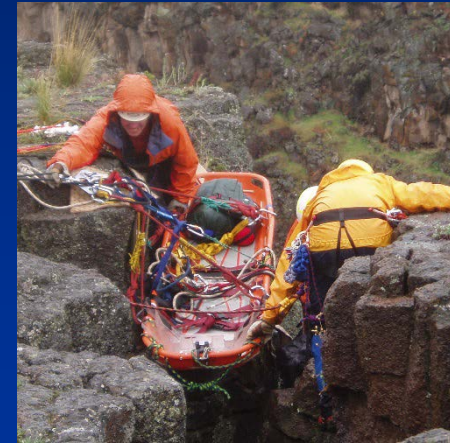
❖ What Is Accreditation Testing Like?

- Each module usually takes an entire day
- Scenarios are as realistic as possible, with live patients in real conditions
- Conducted by the most experienced members from the Oregon Region
- Teams can, and do, fail and are required to re-test to pass a module
- Peer review, immediate feedback and after action review are all used to enhance the learning environment



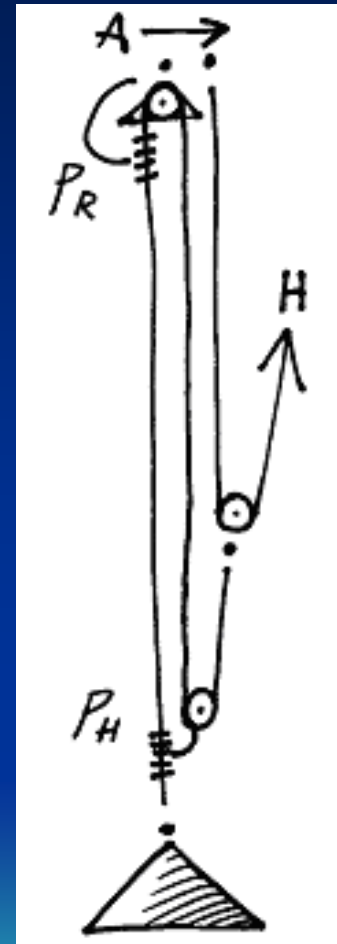
❖ Why Does MRA Accreditation Matter?

- Regularly tests teams to national standards
- Provides responsible agencies with verifiable mountain rescue SAR assets
- Allows for transfer of mountain rescue SAR skills between teams
- Facilitates interoperational abilities between a Region's teams
- Encourages a team to hone skills, use the latest in mountain rescue SAR techniques and build team member's abilities



❖ Oregon Mountain Rescue Teams

- There are five MRA accredited teams in Oregon:
 - Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit
 - Deschutes County Mountain Rescue Unit
 - Eugene Mountain Rescue
 - Hood River Crag Rats
 - Portland Mountain Rescue
- 200 highly trained, dedicated people, available 24/7/365, that enjoy using their skills to help people in need



❖ Oregon Mountain Rescue Council

- Composed of delegates voted in by each Oregon MRA team
- Delegates are representatives for the MRA Oregon Region for all mountain rescue related issues in Oregon
- Responsible for the re-accreditation process for all Oregon Region teams
- Responsible for annual joint training for all Oregon MRA teams
- Long time partner with the OSSA SARAC



❖ Why Should You Care?

- When requesting mutual aid, MRA accredited teams are, simply, the best assets available
- MRA accredited teams are available 24/7/365 through each team's host county 911 dispatch center
- MRA accredited teams train to very high standards and want to use their skills "so that others may live."

