

# Winter 2011 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 table lists the total volunteer hours dedicated to mountain rescue missions. The data are pulled from the annual report on search and rescue prepared by the State of Oregon's Office of Emergency Management. The data are collected by each county sheriff and report time for mountain rescue teams or time spent in a mountain rescue environment by any SAR asset. The most recent report is for 2010 and can be downloaded from the following web site: [http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/tech\\_resp/sar.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/tech_resp/sar.shtml)

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Hours	6,163	7,367	5,543	7,388	12,193	14,705

## Re-Accreditation Activities

The Oregon Region has been implementing a new schedule and process for re-accreditation. In the past, the Oregon Region tested a single team on all three modules in a single (very long) day. This required finding a rock testing area and running a rock module and a table top search module at the same time. Then, everyone would pack up and drive to a different location for the snow module. It was a lot of driving, difficult to find snow and rock testing areas near each other, and very stressful on the team being tested.

A couple of years ago, the Region started testing two teams on the same module in one day. This allowed for the use of a much wider variety of testing locations, much less driving, and was not as stressful on the teams being tested. The new schedule allows for all Oregon Region teams to be tested in all three modules over a five year period with only a single day of testing per year. The new process also includes time for a pot luck and a Oregon Region meeting at the end of the day.

The Region just completed its first rock and search re-accreditation using the new process. Two teams were tested, with one team conducting a real time, on-the-ground wilderness search scenario while the other team was going through a technical rock scenario. In the afternoon, the two teams switched to the other scenario. The reaction to the new, realistic search scenario was very positive and participants and evaluators thought it was a much better learning experience compared to past table top search scenarios.

Both teams that were being tested, Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit and Eugene Mountain Rescue, were re-accredited by the Oregon Region in technical rock and wilderness search.



## Region-Wide Statistics

The following are cumulative values for all Oregon Region teams that provided information for 2011. The numbers from Deschutes County include all SAR activities, not just mountain rescue activities.

Number of Deployable MRA Members = 179  
Number of Missions = 168  
Number of Training Events = 275  
Number of Mission Hours = 10,579  
Number of Training Hours = 19,376  
Number of Rescues = 87  
Number of Searches = 81  
Number of Body Recoveries = 10

## Individual Team Reports

The following are individual reports for each Oregon Region team that provided information for 2011.



**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 was busy thus far in 2011 building to the successful completion of our wilderness search and technical rock reaccreditation modules. With this, CMRU is fully reaccredited in rock, snow, and search. Training exercises were designed to exercise and strengthen the depth of skill within the Unit.

CMRU coordinated a fun weekend of training in conjunction with the National Park Service at Crater Lake National Park as well as several other MRA and SAR teams this past fall. Objectives included continued high-angle searching for a lost subject from a number of years ago, and assisting the park in cleaning up trash inside the caldera from a vehicle accident. Teams enjoyed great weather, great camaraderie, and completed our training objectives.

Mission wise the Unit traveled throughout the state of Oregon as well as to southern Washington and northern California on various search and rescue missions.

Number of Deployable Members = 16  
Number of Missions = 19  
Number of Training Events = 30  
Number of Mission Hours = 347  
Number of Training Hours = 2,123  
Number of Rescues = 2  
Number of Searches = 9  
Number of Body Recoveries = 1





**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, swiftwater, snowmobile, ATV, ground search, winter (snow) missions and overhead functions.

Deschutes MRU was active in 2011 improving and expanding team capabilities. In addition to our normal training schedule, we hosted seminars featuring experts in technical rock rescue and traditional alpine mountain rescue.

Within our County are many miles of lava tube caves which pose a considerable rescue challenge. In 2011, Deschutes established a cave rescue specialty and conducted several training sessions which concluded with a successful cave mock rescue including patient medical treatment and extrication. We also focused on our technical rock climbing skills to improve our capability to access patients in areas where climbing up to them is the only alternative. Little did we anticipate that our training would soon be put to use.

One of the accidents we responded to at Smith Rocks State park this year involved a seriously injured patient that fell during the second pitch of a trad climb. He fell about 25' and landed on a ledge about 200' up a vertical cliff. Our team accessed the patient, attended to his medical needs, packaged him on the ledge and lowered him to the base of the cliff. From there it was a 800' lower down a steep scree slope to an access trail.

Another mission of note was in the Three Sisters Wilderness area. This mission involved a snowboarder that was clinging to a tree on an icy slope with a cliff band above and below. Our team gained access from above on skis and performed a pickoff to raise him back to the top of the slope.

Number of DC SAR Members = 96

Number of DC MRU Members = 28

Number of Missions = 94

Number of Training Events = 115

Number of Mission Hours = 7,230

Number of Training Hours = 9,545

Number of Rescues = 54

Number of Searches = 36

Number of Body Recoveries = 4

Note: Statistics are for all DC SAR activities, not just DC MRU activities.



**Eugene Mountain Rescue**  
**PO Box 20**  
**Eugene, OR 97440-0020**  
**Email: [info@eugenemountainrescue.org](mailto:info@eugenemountainrescue.org)**  
**Web: <http://www.eugenemountainrescue.org/>**

EMR spent the first half of the year preparing for reaccreditation on rock rescue and search management, which we completed successfully in June. After a couple months break, we started our new training year in September. We'll be preparing for another recert next spring, this time on snow.

Only one of our missions this year involved climbing. That one is still unresolved, so we're likely to be revisiting it next year. The rest were a mix of hikers, hunters, mushroom pickers, and motorists.

Our new website was rolled out earlier this year. There is still much work to do on it, but it is pretty functional at this point, as evidenced by our ability to provide statistics again!

Number of Deployable Members = 50  
Number of Missions = 18  
Number of Training Events = 41  
Number of Mission Hours = 1,013  
Number of Training Hours = 3,878  
Number of Rescues = 17  
Number of Searches = 15  
Number of Body Recoveries = 1



**Hood River Crag Rats**  
**PO Box 1159**  
**Hood River, OR 97031**  
**Email: [hoodrivercragrats@gmail.com](mailto:hoodrivercragrats@gmail.com)**  
**Web: <http://www.cragrats.org/index.html>**

Number of Deployable Members = 30  
Number of Missions = 16  
Number of Training Events = 9  
Number of Mission Hours = 502  
Number of Training Hours = 339  
Number of Rescues = 10  
Number of Searches = 4  
Number of Body Recoveries = 1



**Portland Mountain Rescue**  
**PO Box 5391**  
**Portland, OR 97228-5391**  
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**Web: <http://www.pmru.org/index.html>**

For Portland Mountain Rescue 2011 was notable for the low number of climbing related missions on Mt. Hood. PMR only responded on three occasions to aid subjects high on the Mountain. Our year was filled with out-of-bounds skiers and snowboarders, evidence searching, overdue hikers and sadly a number of body recoveries. We had teams in the field on 27 days.

Visit <http://www.pmru.org/pressroom/summaries.html> for a summary of all our mission activity.

In addition to SAR work, members put on 21 Public Education events, staged a mock rescue for a local news station and donated 260 hours to wilderness clean-up events.

Number of Deployable Members = 55  
Number of Missions = 21  
Number of Training Events = 80  
Number of Mission Hours = 1,487  
Number of Training Hours = 3,491  
Number of Rescues = 4  
Number of Searches = 17  
Number of Body Recoveries = 3