

# TECHNICAL

# E-MAG 14

# RESCUE

EMS, EXTRICATION, SAR, AQUATIC, ROPE, DIVE, TACTICAL & USAR



Inset: The actual front cover for issue 56. This E-Mag cover was our alternative front cover for issue 56 and was subsequently used as a title picture spread for Lee Lang's article on Larimer County SAR Team's MRA recertification. photo by Robbie Popp

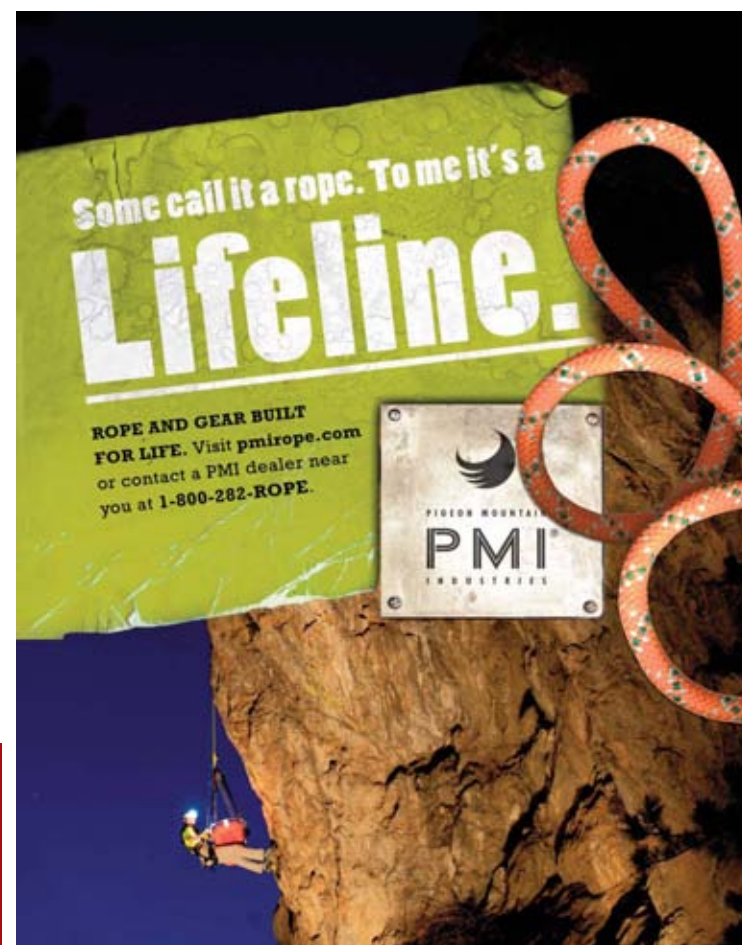


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We mostly work remote from the office phone so don't expect an answer. However, we will ring you back if your message hasn't been accidentally deleted. Better still email us because we monitor these most often regardless of where we are:

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## TECHNICAL RESCUE & CANPRO®

# ANNUAL DIGITAL Photo Competition

### PRIZES

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AMATEUR - Runner Up - Nikon P6000  
PRO-Winner - Nikon WT-4A-Wireless File

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NIKON WT-4A  
wireless file transmitter



Issue by Issue, *Technical Rescue Magazine* tries to feature as many large format images as we can and regularly features an additional 'Gallery' page to house them all. With this in mind, we are particularly pleased to announce, the *Canpro Annual Photo Competition* for amateur and professional rescue photographers.

Fantastic prizes of *Nikon* Camera equipment are being sponsored by *Canpro Training Resources* - *Occupational Health, Safety and Industrial Rescue* of Canada, who are specialists in training of industrial and confined space rescue as well as OH&S and standby rescue services to North American customers.

The competition will be fully detailed in *Issue 57* of the hard-copy magazine due out before Halloween! The gist is: Two classes of entries - 'Amateur Class' with a winner and runner-up prize and a 'Professional Class' with a winner prize (because no Pro likes to be runner-up!) Throughout the competition, we will try to publish as many of the entries as we can. The winning shots will ultimately be given a stand alone gallery or centre spread, in *Technical Rescue*. This time around we won't be categorising the type of res-

cue photograph so you are welcome to submit incidents, equipment, training, personnel etc. Our only stipulation is that the photo should obviously be your own work and should adhere to the usual privacy or permission requirements where the identity of a member of the public or a casualty, are concerned.

As this is the first annual Photo Competition, we will see how it goes and may expand on the prize base plus incorporate new subcategories on the types of photos next year. Please submit your entries by email. Images need to be in high resolution digital format, preferably jpg images.

**Closing date for competition is March 2010**

Start sending your entries now!

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**WELCOME** to Technical Rescue magazine's E-Mag produced in between editions of the hard-copy magazine. Usually! This one is going to reach many of you before issue 56 of the magazine has even been sent out because of a glitch with the mailing process. Consequently you can expect issue 57 to be pushed back a month - this will come as no surprise to our regular subscribers who, after 16 years, are quite used to our erratic scheduling.

We've changed the definition from Newsletter to E-Mag because this is more of a shortened version of the magazine with background info. We've also dropped the numbering in favour of a Numeric system which takes into account that this is the 14th issue. Our previous system of aligning the 'newsletter' with the issue number may have been a bit confusing, certainly confused us!

The E-mag is more news-oriented than the hard-copy magazine which concentrates on the hard-core instructional, informational and review articles which are not time-sensitive. We also take the opportunity in the E-Mag to keep you informed about goings on at the magazine (like being late!), the folk behind the magazine and upcoming articles and features. In this issue we are launching a new annual Photography competition sponsored by Canpro Global of Canada. This is a great opportunity to showcase your talents, a great opportunity for **us** to showcase your pictures and there's the chance to win a \$1000 and \$500 worth of camera so send us an email with your image(s) attached. Each image should preferably be a minimum of 1 meg for us to be able to reproduce to best appearance. Canpro are in this for the long-haul and are keen for this to be an annual event. This year we'll just be feeling our way but hopefully by next year we'll be looking at a bigger competition with more prizes. We'll be giving full details in issue 57.

Cheers. **Ade Scott**-Editor



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**CLIFF COLLAPSE  
PORTUGAL**

21 Aug 2009  
*BBC: At least five people have died and several others have been injured in a landslide at a beach in the Algarve, southern Portugal, officials say. A 60-year-old man and four women - two under the age of 25 - were killed when part of a cliff collapsed on the popular Maria Luisa beach in Albufeira. Rescuers are continuing to search for further victims who were caught in the landslide at midday on Friday....Diggers were deployed at the site as part of a rescue operation.*  
*A witness quoted by Portugal's Lusa news agency said that "part of the cliff came down around noon and rocks crashed onto the beach up to the sea causing much panic". A 38-year-old woman - one of the injured people - was in a critical condition, Portuguese emergency services said.*  
*Portuguese President Anibal Cavaco Silva visited the beach, which is popular with local and foreign tourists.*  
**TRM:** The death toll here eventually reached 8. it would seem that man and child remained buried at the time of this report. A minor earthquake a few days previously may have made this cliff even more unstable than it already was (warning signs along that section warned of the dangers of landslides). This multi-service operation involved Lifeguards who



were first on scene (pic centre) with firefighters, Civil (Defence) Rescue, ambulance and police. The size of block in the picture right show why there were immediate fatalities and why digging out was so difficult. The top picture shows why the tide quickly became a major concern and temporarily



halted operations. Sand engulfments are virtually non-survivable especially when water saturation is brought into the equation but in this case block sandstone would have given some hope of survivable voids. Ultimately, this was proven not to be the case.

**ROAD COLLAPSE - CHINA**



**DAILY MAIL-UK**  
On 18th May 2009 an elevated section of the Hongqi Road in Zhuzhou, Hunan Province China was being dismantled by workers when it collapsed onto a busy section of road beneath killing at least 9. Up to 2000 rescuers used more than 30 digging machines, but detector signals indicated there were no likely signs of life in the debris. Nine vehicles and their occupants remain trapped in the rubble. About 200 meters of the viaduct, supported by eight pillars, collapsed at 4.24 pm yesterday on the Hongqi road of downtown Zhuzhou city, burying the road beneath and affecting 27 vehicles passing by. The rescue operation moved slowly as trunks of the collapsed viaduct proved too big to clear. The bridge spans the bustling Hongqi Square and used to cause traffic congestion in the area - and so the city government closed traffic on the viaduct on May 5 for dismantling.

Workers had exploded part of the viaduct and planned to explode the collapsed section on Wednesday. The municipal public security bureau said today that police had detained people initially held responsible for the accident, but did not give any other details. Officials from the provincial government and the state work safety watchdog have launched an investigation into the collapse. The viaduct, which came into use in 1995, was the first urban flyover in Hunan. It was 2,750 meters long and eight meters tall.

Subsequent to this report in the Daily Mail the following Xinhua report revised the death toll to 9: *The rescue operation has been called off as all bodies from Sunday's viaduct collapse in central China's Hunan Province have been recovered. Sixteen people were rescued from the scene of the collapsed viaduct in Hunan Province. A total of nine people died and 16 others were injured, rescue headquarters reported at a press conference convened Monday evening. 24 motor vehicles were also destroyed. Police are investigating the cause of the accident. So far, nine people have been placed under police surveillance.*  
**TRM:** An incident reminiscent in appearance of LA's freeway collapse during the Northridge earthquake. Quite amazing that there should only be 9 fatalities. Search operations in roadway collapses are generally very protracted because the vehicles, though 'flattened' have so many survivable voids and victims have been recovered after several days of entrapment.



China now has enormous civil rescue resources to use in such disasters quite apart from the military assistance normally seen during major flooding. Here, firefighters, civil rescue teams and municipal workers combined to carry out the search and rescue operation. In this case it was 'all-or-nothing' for victims - death or minimal injuries.





# ISSUE 56 **Sampler**

OUT NOW - but..... **Apologies** to many who may have seen a copy floating around the station etc but have yet to receive their own. This is because most copies are still sat in the warehouse awaiting mailing - we are swapping to a new mailing house so the subscriber copies to the rest of the UK, US, European and Australasia should hopefully be going out in the next week or so.

Subscribe via the website: [www.t-rescue.com](http://www.t-rescue.com)..... shopping....subscription



**Cover & Below right:** Our TEAM in issue 56 is a British Columbian Ski Patrol on Mount Vernon. Jeremy Griffiths, glamour model from TRm issue 42, is their new head of emergency services and describes the work of the ski patrol and the process involved in being a Brit from sunny Cornwall translocated to the snowy mountains of Canada.

**Clockwise from right:** Following on from Ski Patrol, Ivan Hansen looks at the work of Avalanche Search Dogs

• A new Extrication series from Richard Denham and Nick Appleton of London Fire Brigade introduces the subject of heavy vehicles and where the potential pitfalls are.

• Richard Hackwell describes in detail the recent upgrade of UK Coastguard rope rescue systems

• Gear review of OTB (over the Beach) water rescue/Dive boots

• Lee Lang describes how Larimer County SAR in Colorado cope with recertification for the Mountain Rescue Association

• We continue our medical series from rescuers-turned-medical students with Halden hutchinson-Bazely's examination of the use of Ketamine in the field.

• Our Market Guide to Water Rescue Craft continues with a look at Rescue Hovercraft

•The TerrAdaptor is a fantastic new multipod system from SMC and PMI



# ISSUE 57 **Sampler**

Out in the Autumn, but expect a slight delay as we clear the backlog from issue 56. **get your order in NOW:**

Subscribe via the website: [www.t-rescue.com](http://www.t-rescue.com)..... shopping....subscription

**Left:** COVER 57: We again have three contenders for issue 57's cover - The main candidate is the Canadian Coastguard MLB battling waves on Vancouver Island but we have concerns over the resolution of the image. No such worries with the similar subject matter also from Ivan Hansen's Team article in 57 this time with a rescue hovercraft. Not sure about the strength of colour in this photo. Finally, bottom left is the USCG photograph of an airboat being used post-Katrina. Our market guide in issue 57 is airboats and this is a great picture but we have concerns about the lack of PPE worn by personnel on the craft which is bound to be picked up by many as a negative point.

**Right,top:** Illustrating that not all airboats feature a pilot sat in an 'umpire' chair on a dory-style hull. Our title pic highlights that many are low centre of gravity, fully gunwaled hulls with enclosed cabins that are still capable of riding over ice, snow, mud and sand. Like hovercraft in issue 56, airboats of all types have a role to play in certain environments and we try to discern the good from the not so good. **Right,bottom:** The Arachnipod is an Australian multi-pod that will find it hard to follow in the wake of the Arizona Vortex and the TerrAdaptor featured in issue 56. However it does have a couple of tricks up its sleeve that sets it apart and can make it indispensable to certain services.

### ALSO IN ISSUE 57:

- **Vehicle Extrication - Heavies pt2** by London Fire Brigade
- A comparison of **Autolock Descenders** by Greg Churchman
- A research paper on the ability of **webbing** to withstand exposure to sunlight, rain and temperature
- Sean Johnson looks at the **role of helicopters in inland water SAR**
- **Gear Review on Ferno Arachnipod**
- Rich Hackwell continues with the **UK Coastguards**



### new Rope Rescue systems

- We finally manage to get Paul Auerbach's **Wilderness Medicine** and **Medicine for the Outdoors** reviewed
- **Gear Reviews** of **RamFan's** mighty 'mini' electric fan and **Actsafes** unique **sit harness** combo
- The concluding part of Reed Thorne's comprehensive series on **Minimalist Rope Rescue Archetypes**
- and our rescuers-turned-medics series looks at **Nerve Blockers**.

NB: The design, content and titling of pages shown here may be different in the final printed magazine

# ISSUE 58 **Winter 2010**

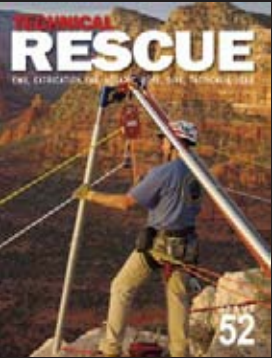
- Pipe Sealing Airbags
- Dealing with Anthrax
- London Fire Brigade look at trucks/lorries/heavies
- Tactical Lighting
- PWCs (Personal Water Craft)
- Rotterdam Joint services Control
- Rope Rescue Equipment Reviews





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	<b>KELLY MATTHEWS</b> Sales & Admin Director- UK Law Costs Draughtsman, The real Boss of TRm
	<b>GARY CROSS</b> Senior Chimp - UK Firefighter, ex-TRU, HMCoastguard, Extrication Team Medic, Marine Incident Response Group
	<b>RICH HACKWELL</b> SAR Editor - UK HM Coastguard-Head of Technical Rescue, Lifeguard, ex-TRU,(ex Tree Surgeon)
	<b>BRIAN ROBINSON</b> Con-Space Rescue Editor - UK National Confined Space Rescue Instructor ex-Mines Rescue, ex-TRU
	<b>JEZ HUNTER</b> Contributing Editor - UK ex-Royal Marines, Water Rescue, USAR & , Rope instructor, now a medical student
	<b>DR STEWART BOYD</b> Medical Editor -RSA Top Medical Dog - KZN, Trauma Doc, Flight Medic, War-zone junkie
	<b>LEE LANG</b> SAR Editor - USA Ex-firefighter & EMT, current SAR team member and past NASAR presenter
	<b>JIM HUTCHEN</b> Researcher - UK Firefighter, ex-Technical Rescue Unit, Tree sur- geon, Extrication Team Snr Medic, USAR Team
	<b>SEAN JOHNSON</b> Contributor - Dive Rescue -USA Fresno Fire Dept Firefighter, USAR & Dive Team
	<b>GREG CHURCHMAN</b> Contributor -USAR/ Rope - Canada Fire Officer, Pilot, Rope Rescue Instructor
	<b>RICH BELL</b> Contributor - UK Paramedic, Dir. Extreme Medics , ex-Police, Tactical medic, ex-TRU
	<b>CHRIS WALKER</b> Researcher - UK Ex-Technical Rescue Unit, National RNLI Instructor (HQ),Regional SAR Team Member.

	<b>REED THORNE</b> Rope Rescue Editor - USA Rope Guru, Sedona SAR, ex-Firefighter, Stonemason and past NASAR presenter
	<b>IVAN HANSEN</b> Contributing Editor - Canada Acting Fire Captain, Advanced Emergency Medical Care Assistant, ex-Coastguard Aux.
	<b>BEN WALLER</b> Aquatic Editor - USA Water Rescue expert. Battalion Chief, Training Chief, Paramedic, US&R tech & HazMat tech.

Who's Who at TRm?

Gary Cross

TRm's Go-To man meets his match in Barbados



After years of putting up with Gary's extensive extra-curricula activities (full time firefighter, water rescue specialist, MIRG Team (offshore firefighting) ex-Technical Rescue Unit, extrication team medic, Coastguard and First Responder) Lin finally gave in and married him. Of course, having Barbados as a venue probably helped sweeten the deal for her and as the above picture shows, it beats the hell out of a Portsmouth Registry Office! The kids, Josh and Emily got in on the act and even put up with the photography - all worth it for those days on the beach and by the pool - should get married more often they reckoned! Congratulations Lin and Gary

Superfluous to requirements ?



or the ultimate optimist? this Chinese citizen was caught out in the floods caused by Typhoon Morakat and decided that it was a bad enough day without having to suffer the indignity of wet hair as well.

Photo: Xinhua News Agency, China



# TYPHOON MORAKOT

July-August 2009   Philippines-Taiwan-China

*There is absolutely no doubt that in RESCUE the largest number of casualties on a DAILY basis are water related. Water rescue in the form of Flood/swiftwater, lifeguarding, off-shore and inshore rescue leave all other areas of rescue firmly in the starting blocks when it comes to numbers. Earthquakes are a slightly different matter because the number of entrapment rescues are minimal even though the fatality count may be extremely high.*

*The biggest problems are tsunamis and inland flooding (of which tsunamis can be a primary cause) where the local and national services are often ill-prepared for the sheer scale of events. Japan was devastated in July by flooding and mudslides and now Taiwan off the China coast has just experienced the full fury of Typhoon Morakot which dumped 80" or 2 metres of rain in the first week of August 2009. This report from the BBC, and flagged by the ever vigilant Slim Ray involves a mud-slide which is perhaps the most devastating of all flood-related events with virtually no pre-event warning, no time to escape, minimal chance of surviving when it hits and minimal chance of rescue even if the victim manages to survive in a void (of which there are usually none in mud). Of course a mudslide is not just mud - it is a sea of very heavy debris - large rocks and trees easily carried by the very dense mud. The sheer crushing mass of this medium and difficult access across it when it settles coupled with a surface that can dry into 'concrete' makes even body recovery a nightmare task.*

## Taiwan mudslide death toll rises

**BBC Report**  
Taiwan's president says the number of people killed in mudslides and floods caused by a typhoon could exceed 500, almost 400 of them in a single village. HsiaoLin was hit by a massive mudslide that covered all but two houses - and officials say they have given up hope of finding any of those missing alive. The official death toll has already climbed to 118 but is set to go higher.

The military hopes on Friday to airlift out the nearly 2,000 people who remain stranded in the surrounding area. Last weekend's typhoon caused Taiwan's worst flooding for 50 years. In central and southern Taiwan, roads have been washed out, bridges swept away and low-rise buildings sent crashing into rivers. Many mountain villages can only be accessed by air now.



Photo: Taiwan Military News Agency

### AT THE SCENE

*Cindy Sui BBC News, HsiaoLin*  
Having seen HsiaoLin with my own eyes, I finally understand the magnitude of what happened. It looks like a river bed with nothing on it - the houses are all gone and a 17m bridge that was there can't be seen any more. Nearly 400 people are buried under a 20-30m deep avalanche of mud. The authorities don't know where to begin - if they start digging through the mud, it's not stable ground so it could cost lives. The mud is so deep that even if the rescue crews had been here in time, they wouldn't have been able to dig through. Hundreds had been feared dead in the wake of Typhoon Morakot, but the government had not previously given an estimated total figure for those killed. Speaking at a national security meeting on Friday, President Ma Ying-jeou said that with the deaths already confirmed "and some 380 people feared buried by mudslides in HsiaoLin village, Taiwan's death toll could rise to more than 500". Over the past few days, thousands of

people have been airlifted to safety from the settlements cut off by the mudslides and flooding, some 2,000 on Thursday alone. The BBC's Cindy Sui, in Kaohsiung county, says the authorities are confident they can bring out the remaining 1,900 people thought to be stranded in the area on Friday. The military has enough helicopters now, she says, and the weather has

improved. Troops are being sent on foot into some steep valleys that are hard to search from the air, she adds. Many of the worst-affected villages are inhabited by aborigines, who farm the mountainous terrain. Thousands more people are believed to be stranded in remote settlements elsewhere in southern and central Taiwan.

### HELP ON WAY?

Taiwan's government says it has received offers of help from the international community, including the European Union and the US. But it has stressed the need for very specific technical assistance - namely giant cargo helicopters that can carry large earth diggers and other machinery into remote mountain areas to help re-open roads. The government has also requested prefabricated buildings to help house those left homeless by the flooding and supplies of disinfectant, to try to prevent the spread of disease. The families of those stranded and of the hundreds feared dead have urged the government to speed up rescue efforts. Many have been waiting for days at the

rescue operation centre in Qishan for news of relatives missing since the typhoon struck.

Critics say the authorities were too slow to realise the magnitude of the disaster. Some of those stranded say they have received no help for days and are short of food and water. The government says it is doing everything it can and that rescue efforts earlier in the week were hampered by bad weather and limited access to the affected areas. More than 14,000 people have been evacuated by air. Others have been carried to safety over ravines where bridges have collapsed by soldiers using makeshift zip lines. Military helicopters have been dropping provisions for those still stranded, but poor weather earlier this week hampered their work.

The flooding has destroyed 34 bridges and severed 253 sections of road in Taiwan, Reuters news agency quotes the transportation ministry as saying, with repairs likely to take up to three years in the worst-affected areas. Officials in the island's south-eastern Taitung county estimated that nearly 3,700 people remained cut off as of Friday morning, the AFP news agency reports, while in central Chiayi county some 9,000 were thought to be stranded.

Typhoon Morakot, which lashed Taiwan with at least 200cm (80in) of rain last weekend, has caused at least \$910m (£550m) in damages to agriculture and infrastructure, Reuters reports.

Reconstruction is expected to cost some \$3.65bn (£2.2bn).

### TAIWAN'S WORST-AFFECTED AREAS

- # Qishan - rescue operation centre established here, thousands of troops drafted in to help.
- # Liukuei - 200 people awaiting rescue from hot spring resort as of Thursday, with another 700 survivors in the area.
- # Hsinfu - 32 people reported dead, survivors pulled to safety using ropes thrown across river.
- # HsiaoLin - hundreds feared dead following mudslides the morning after Taiwan's Father's Day.
- # Taoyuan - residents told to run to higher ground as embankment holding back lake gave way.

Taiwan aftermath - opposite



Photo: AP/Wally Santana



Photo: Taiwan Military News Agency



Photo: AP



Photo: Reuters



Photo: AP/Wally Santana



Photo: Taiwan Military News Agency



Photo: Taiwan Military News Agency



Photo: AP/Wally Santana

Highline Photos: Taiwan military rescue villagers [using a tyrolean highline] strung across the Ba Si Lan river in Sinfa, Taiwan, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009, five days after flash flooding from Typhoon Morakot took the lives of 32 fellow villagers. Hundreds of villagers fled their homes minutes before a flood-created lake burst Thursday, as the Taiwanese military deployed thousands more troops to rescue and deliver supplies to survivors from remote villages devastated during last weekend's typhoon. AP



Photo: Courtesy SAR Products UK



Photo: AFP/SamYeh



# US Coast Guard's Rescue 21 system

helps rescue two teens. August 10th 2009

By using the latest in search and rescue technology, the Coast Guard was able to quickly rescue two teenagers after their vessel began taking on water and sank about 30 miles from shore today. The teens were in a 21-foot vessel south of Sabine Pass when their vessel started taking on water at 8:50 a.m. and eventually sank. A

Coast Guard MH-65C helicopter crew was dispatched from Air Station Houston and quickly located the boaters. The young men were hoisted from the water and taken to the Lake Charles airport.

The Rescue 21 system aided in this rescue by providing searchers with a single line of bearing from where the mayday call originated, thereby greatly reducing the search area. Installed in the Houston - Galveston area in October 2008 and Formally accepted in June 2009, Rescue 21 is the Coast

Guard's critical command, control and communications acquisition project, offering cutting edge technology to mariners nationwide. It is the backbone of the National Maritime Distress and Response System, a maritime version of 9-1-1 that allows the boating public, the Coast Guard and other response agencies to communicate more effectively during emergency situations in the marine environment.

"The direction finding capability on Rescue 21 was 100% pertinent to the rescue of these two men," said Zack Edwards, the lead command center controller at Sector Houston-Galveston.

## RESCUE 21 - System Details

To address the limitations of the current communications system, the National Distress and Response System (NDRS), the Coast Guard has implemented a major systems acquisition program entitled Rescue 21.

By harnessing global positioning and cutting-edge communications technology, Rescue 21 enables the Coast Guard to perform all missions with greater agility and efficiency. The new system will close 88 known coverage gaps in coastal areas of the United States, enhancing the safety of life at sea. The system's expanded system frequency capacity enables greater

coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, as well as other federal, state and local agencies and first responders.

When completed, this vital major systems acquisition will provide an updated, leading-edge Very High Frequency - Frequency Modulated (VHF-FM) communications system, replacing the National Distress Response System installed and deployed during the 1970s. Rescue 21 will cover coastline, navigable rivers and waterways in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico. By replacing outdated legacy technology with a fully integrated system, Rescue 21 provides the Coast Guard with upgraded tools and technology to protect the nation's coasts and rescue mariners at sea.

Rescue 21 will replace a wide range of aging, obsolete radio communications equipment to include:

- Consoles at Coast Guard Sectors and Stations.
  - All remote transceiver sites (antenna towers), as well as the network connecting them to the facilities above.
- General Dynamics C4 Systems of Scottsdale, AZ, has been hired as the production contractor to replace the Coast Guard's outdated system in the Contiguous 48 States and Hawaii. Due

to the unique logistical and operational needs in Alaska, the Coast Guard has assumed the role of system integrator for deployment to sectors in Alaska.

Rescue 21 revolutionizes how the Coast Guard uses command, control, and communications for all missions within the coastal zone. The system:

- where feasible, incorporates direction-finding equipment to improve locating mariners in distress
- improves interoperability amongst federal, state, and local agencies
- enhances clarity of distress calls
- allows simultaneous channel monitoring
- upgrades the playback and recording feature of distress calls
- reduces coverage gaps for coastal communications and along navigable rivers and waterways
- supports Digital Selective Calling for registered users in the Contiguous 48 States, provides portable towers for restoration of communications during emergencies or natural disasters

For more information about Rescue 21, please visit [www.uscg.mil/acquisition/rescue21](http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/rescue21)

[www.t-rescue.com](http://www.t-rescue.com)

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# Pre-Rescue Instructions from Control

Control operators often have a stressful and traumatic task in dealing with phone calls from injured and endangered callers - they attempt to keep them on the line, calm them, elicit information to enable an efficient response and pass on information that could improve their situation. Recently in the UK a victim of a multiple stabbing stayed alive on the phone to the emergency services operator just long enough to identify her boyfriend as the assailant. In many ways this is a psychologically far more difficult role than rescue itself where there is usually the chance to play an active role in the rescue. Back at Control you would feel more helpless. However, important information can be gotten across to the caller - medical advice is an obvious one but more unusual water rescue assistance can be given while the rescue team is en-route and this phase of a rescue operation, the pre-rescue, can be the difference between life and death for the caller. The following PRI's are from Travis County, Texas:

## SWIFTWATER INCIDENTS

### 1st Party (Vehicles)

- Turn on your lights and hazards
- Take off any seatbelts and remove small children from their car seats
- Roll down all the windows in the car, if unable to, find something to assist in breaking the window
- If safe to do so climb on top of your car
  - ☞ If not, stay in the car and wait for help to arrive
- If the vehicle begins to move rapidly, abandon the vehicle
- If you end up in the water swim aggressively to the nearest bank
  - ☞ DO NOT stand up until you reach calm, shallow water

### 2nd Party Caller (Vehicles)

- Can you communicate with the victims in the vehicle
  - ☞ Yes - give PRI's
  - ☞ No - Continue with triage tell the caller (Help is on the way, Do Not hang up, stay on the line)
- Do not enter the water to attempt Rescue
- Do you have any equipment that you could extend or throw (stick, rope, garden hose, jumper cables) to the victim
- Do you have any flotation that you could throw to the victim, (Life Jacket,

cooler, spare tire

- ☞ Do you feel comfortable doing this without getting in the water?
- DO NOT tie a rope around the victim

## FLOODING INCIDENTS

### Residential

- Do not worry about turning off the electricity
- If you smell gas leave the building, move to high ground or a safe structure
- If water continues to rise be prepared to leave the interior of the building
  - ☞ Roof
  - ☞ Another building or structure
  - ☞ DO Not let rising water trap you in the building or structure such as in an attic
- Take a flashlight/water/food/other supplies with you, even if daylight now rescuers may not be able to get to you until dark
- Take a cell phone with you if you leave the building
  - ☞ Remember to conserve your batteries
- If time allows take any necessary medications with you when leaving the building
- If you evacuate on your own, please call back to 9-1-1 and let us know by giving the original location of your emergency

### Commercial

- Do not use the elevator
- If roof access is available through a roof hatch move there now
- Do not worry about turning off the electricity
- If you smell gas leave the building, move to high ground or a safe structure
- Take a flashlight with you, even if daylight now rescuers may not be able to get to you until dark
- Take a cell phone with you if you leave the building
  - ☞ Remember to conserve your batteries
- If you evacuate on your own, please call back to 9-1-1 and let us know by giving the original location of your emergency

Thanks to Travis County, Nancy Rigg and the Swiftwater H2OGroup

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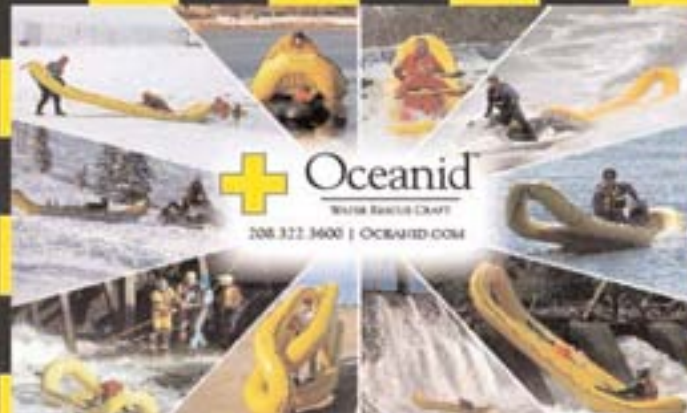


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**PUBLIC SAFETY DIVE TEAMS**  
**WATER RESCUE TEAMS**



# Weber introduce the RS200-107 Heavy Duty Cutter



SPECIFICATIONS:	
Cutting force	107 tons/ kN
Opening	200 mm/7.8"
Weight	19,9 kg/43.7 lbs
Length	818 mm/32.2"
Width	265 mm/10.4"
Round bar	43mm/1.7"
EN-Class	BC 190-H-20
NFPA-class	A8/B9/C8/D9/E9

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i-Bolt Technology

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- i-Bolt flat central bolt construction
- LED lighting in carrying handle
- Speed Valve on all ram jacks and spreaders for quicker tool opening

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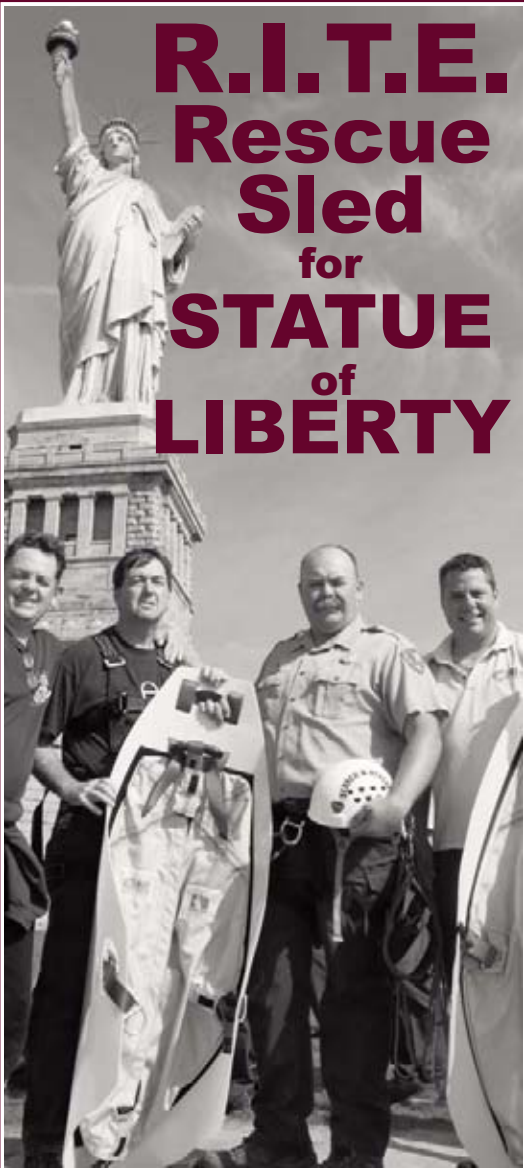
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Operating at 700 bar the new RS200 from Weber Hydraulik, based in Germany and Austria, is an upgrade of the RS170 cutter. It now features a new style of blade for better cutting performance. The RS200 rates in the maximum bar cutting capacity for three out of the five EN categories and one down from the maximum on the remaining two categories making this the perfect balance between size, weight and power. Having been tested on modern cars with their extremely strong protective systems the RS200 has been designed to meet the highest demands of rescuers. The blade overlap minimises the tension-build-up during a cut negating the energy-release burst often associated with cutting strengthened materials. RS200's jaws will span the thick sandwich construction of A,B and C posts and cut through with relative ease. The RS200 uses Weber's latest SINGLE coupling technology which puts both hoses into one connection making for fast changeovers as well as eliminating kinking. Extremely fine control is achieved with Weber's throttle-style control at the back of the tool. This has a coloured indicator button to show whether the blade is in either closing or opening mode. As with all Weber tools the handle can be quickly rotated through 360 degrees to achieve the perfect cutting position.

[www.weber.de](http://www.weber.de)



## R.I.T.E. Rescue Sled for STATUE of LIBERTY

Visitors will now be able to climb the narrow double helix staircase in groups of ten, each lead by a National Park Service ranger, at a rate of about 30 people per hour. Supervisory park ranger Eugene Kuziw noted that in the past the climb to the crown was a long process – sometimes lasting 90 minutes or more as the line composed of hundred of visitors wound its way to the top one slow step at a time. Under the new process, the climb will take 20 minutes or less from the bottom of the pedestal to the top, and Kuziw is expecting to see a significant increase in climbing-related medical incidents. With Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's decision to reopen the crown, Kuziw, who runs the emergency services unit for both Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, saw the chance to create and implement a rope access team (RAT) to respond to emergencies inside the statue. This team will be able to do both "steep-angle" rescues of victims down the stairs and "high-angle" rescues that would involve passing the victim over the railings and lowering him or her down through the statue's superstructure. Currently, the RAT is composed of emergency services unit staff, interpretive rangers with first responder certification and U.S. Park Police SWAT members. With 18 members, Kuziw said that four to six will be on the island at any given

time to respond if needed. He hopes to expand the team over time to include volunteers from all the different divisions of park operations, such as maintenance and administration, because each division brings a unique set of skills to complement a rescue. Team members (RATs) receive technical rope training, have medical first responder certification or better, and receive additional advanced training to deal with common, but life-threatening situations. Without such training, the park staff would have to wait for assistance from the New York City police or fire departments and that delay could lead to a decrease in a victim's ability to survive. The RATs are drilling twice weekly in preparation for the July 4th opening before and after visitors



arrive, and they practice on their own when time permits. Training has been provided by Kuziw, the Delaware Water Gap NRA high angle rescue team, and outside specialists, such as the Central Jersey technical rescue team, the Fire Department of the City of New York and Rite Rescue NYC. One of those training sessions took place on June 17th when a group of NYC firemen came to Liberty Island to demonstrate to the RATs how to use two state-of-the-art pieces of rescue equipment that were donated to the team. "Our old equipment is bulky and can be hard to use, slowing down the rescue process. Thanks to the generosity of Rite Rescue NYC, our rope access team can do its job with maximum safety and ease, which means we can get visitors in distress to safety and medical care quickly," Kuziw said. [www.riterescuenyc.com](http://www.riterescuenyc.com)

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VETTER



## B&W Outdoor Cases Backpack



B&W outdoor cases is part of the BWH Group, Germany's premier manufacturer of specialist cases for industry and the professions. The cases have passed the stringent TÜV testing regime; this includes a period of immersion at 5 metres, a 3m fall to concrete, and various compression and operation-

tional tests in simulated extreme conditions.

The Back Pack accessory is a full harness system with ancillary pockets that can be used with the 40,50,60 and 61 sized cases.

It is well padded and ergonomically designed to allow for plenty of ventilation as well as ease of carrying. There are several zipped pockets as well as a tripod or roll carrier' on the top.

Weight: 1.5kg / 3.3 lbs

Priced from £41. to £55.

International: [www.b-w-international.com](http://www.b-w-international.com)

UK: [www.outdoor-cases.co.uk](http://www.outdoor-cases.co.uk)

## ATEX approval for Peli Heads-Up



Peli 2690 HeadsUp Lite – now approved for hazardous areas

The 2690 is a rugged, weather-resistant, headlamp which now has ATEX Zone 0 approval, for use in all hazardous areas. The 2690Z0 is ideal for emergency services personnel; offering essential hands-free light with a bezel twist on/off switch, for easy gloved-hand operation. Weighing only 117 grams with batteries, the 2690Z0 is compact yet tough. This model features a bright LED which produces 60 lumens at peak brightness and usable light for up to 10 hours. Powered by 3 x AAA batteries the 2690Z0 has a 90° pivoting head, to direct the light where you need it most. As with all Peli Head torches, a rubber strap for hard hat use and a comfortable cloth headband are included. Peli offer a wide range of lighting products from compact LED torches to rechargeable remote area lighting systems – UK: [www.peliproducs.co.uk](http://www.peliproducs.co.uk) or telephone: 01457 869999 International:[www.pelican.com](http://www.pelican.com)

## NEW for 2010 Petzl Rig

We couldn't tell you much about this one beyond what our mate Rob Dunshea of RopeWise in Oz told us (and supplied the pics right) until we spoke to the ever helpful Lyon Equipment who kindly gave us the full SP - The Rig is due out next year and is designed specifically for professionals used to the Petzl Stop configuration and who maybe found the ID to be a little bulky and expensive for their applications. The Rig doesn't have the auto-lock or ant-reverse cam than the ID has so won't be applicable to team rescuers but as an individual access tool it could be a significant new introduction:

*The self-braking RIG descender is designed for difficult-access work and rescue professionals. It allows the user to access the work station and then easily position himself by using the handle to lock the device in place on the rope. Easy to grasp, this descender is intuitive and comfortable to use. With its innovative and compact design, the RIG offers a simple, efficient alternative to traditional descenders.*

*Selling points*

- Designed for work on a rope
- The safety gate on the moving side plate helps prevent dropping the device and facilitates installation of the rope and passing intermediate anchors
- Multi-functional handle allows the user to:
  - unblock the rope and control the descent with the hand on the free end of the rope
  - position himself while on the rope without tying off the device
  - The spring loaded handle returns to the belay position in order to reduce the possibility of involuntary release.
- Handle storage position for when the descender is being carried on the harness.
- Pivoting cam facilitates taking up the slack in the rope. Can also be used to make a reversible haul system, and for short ascents (in conjunction with a FOOTPRO foot loop and an ASCENSION handled rope clamp).
- A screw (integrated into the back of the device) allows the moving side-plate to be locked so that the RIG can be part of a rescue kit

**Specifications**

*Made in France*

*3-year guarantee.*

*Weight: 380 g*

*Color: - yellow: D21A*

*- black: D21AN*

*Materials:*

*- aluminum side plates*

*- stainless steel cam*

*- Nylon handle*

*For use with single ropes 10.5 to*

*11.5 mm in diameter*

*Individually tested Certification:*

*CE EN 12841 type C*

*CE EN 341 class A NFPA 1983,*

*Light Use. [www.petzl.com](http://www.petzl.com)*



## HANDI-STRAPS for enhanced lifting capability

HANDI-STRAPS™ is an item we learnt about over a year ago and have been awaiting an evaluation set for review. The review is still pending but this is potentially such a useful and astonishingly simple concept that we felt we couldn't hold off any longer. Handi-Strap is a weight transfer webbing rig that supports the lift of the arms with the much stronger capabilities of the shoulders (and legs). It is not so much that lift capability for any one individual is increased but more the improved lumbar safety when lifting weights already attempted by emergency services personnel. HandiStrap is now available with a double hook attachment to relieve the hands of lifting and holding thin handles or sharp objects. The retail cost is \$60. but emergency services can expect a reduction on this cost.



See Issue 57 for a more detailed report on HandiStraps

[www.handi-straps.com](http://www.handi-straps.com)

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## MX4 iQuad

Industrial Scientific, the global leader in Gas Detection as a Service, introduces the MX4 iQuad™. Able to detect from one to four gases, the MX4 is the latest addition to the company's line of iNet-ready gas detectors.

iNet offers an alternative to buying and maintaining gas detectors. It is a software-based service that increases safety by providing visibility into gas detector alarms, exposure and usage. It keeps gas detectors working without costly and time-consuming maintenance. And with iNet, customers do not have to buy the gas detectors. Instead, they subscribe to iNet and receive Gas Detection as a Service.

Using the MX4 with iNet is a better way to do gas detection. Subscribers avoid the common problems of owning gas detectors. At the same time, users are protected by the MX4's reliable and user-friendly features.

The MX4 is small, rugged and simple to use. A rubber overmold covers its polycarbonate housing to



protect the MX4 from high-impact bumps and drops. The housing has also been third-party tested and certified IP66 and IP67. This ingress protection rating indicates that the MX4 is dust-tight and resistant to both water jets and submersion. The MX4 uses a combination of three alarms. Ultra-bright LEDs, a 95 db audible alarm and a powerful vibrating alarm all warn users of hazardous gas levels.

[www.indsci.com](http://www.indsci.com)

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# HM Coastguard adopt new Water Rescue Lifejackets

Coastguard Rescue Officers may be required to enter water to either carry out a rescue or to search. Teams are faced with a wide range of water types and conditions including; Open beaches, sea walls, harbours, Quays, Marinas, banks of rivers and estuaries, Surf, rip currents, tidal flows.

The Water Rescue Lifejacket is based on the Crewsaver SWR Harvester which is used commercially throughout the world. HM Coastguard and Crewsaver worked closely together to develop this product for Coastguard rescue operations.

The Water Rescue Lifejacket is a 200N Air/Foam Lifejacket combining 50N of inherent buoyancy with a manually operated inflatable chamber providing an extra 150N of buoyancy, approved to EN 396.

The lifejacket is equipped with a number of features developed for HM Coastguard including; **integral safety harness, crutch straps, retro-reflective tape (white to front red at back for team orientation in the dark), external whistle quick release system and cow's tail (wire gate karabiner for the maritime environment) quick release cow's tail park**

**glow stick pocket on back**  
**Gear pocket**  
**Gear lash tabs**  
**Livery and badging**  
**Free draining storage bag**

This new piece of equipment is a dedicated rescue PFD designed for the environments Coastguards work in. The PFD has two modes; **Search and Rescue**, as a 50 newton rescue PFD it will fulfil most roles and rescues. The second mode is **Survival**, inflated with a combined buoyancy of 200 newtons it will support both rescuer and casualty in demanding conditions, increasing safety. The project has also developed a floating line system for use with the water rescue Lifejacket. 40 metres of brightly coloured buoyant 12 mm line stored in a custom bag. The bag has no tie off points to maintain a clean line, and the line can be deployed from the bag, attached to the tenders life-jacket. It can also be carried around the waist or back and has a pocket for the straps to allow easy storage.



Each of the UK's 400 Coastguard teams is being equipped with the *Water Rescue Lifejacket*.  
[www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk) or [www.crewsaver.co.uk](http://www.crewsaver.co.uk)

# EXPERT HARNESSES



**Singing Rock**, the Czech rope rescue and access manufacturer is now part of Lanex (the rope manufacturer). They have a new range of full body body harnesses the Expert and the Expert Speed. The Standard expert is available with easy-lock (roll-bar) buckles. There is also a version with steel instead of alloy fittings.

**EXPERT II speed W0045BR**  
Fully adjustable fall-arrest harness with padded whist belt, leg loops and shoulder straps. Also suitable for work positioning, descent, ascent and rescue service.

- SPEED buckles enable fluent and fast adjustment to fit body Size: S, M/L, XL
- padded waist belt, leg loops & shoulder
- specially shaped waist and legs
- front and back tie-in points for fall-arrest (EN 361)
- front lower attachment point for descender placement or work positioning (EN 813)
- side attachment point for work positioning (EN 358)
- 2 big plastic gear loops + 4 textile loops for tool bag mounting
- the leg loops construction insure enough comfort in bark area
- easy-lock buckles enable fluent and fast adjustment to fit to users body
- flat rear attachment point does not bear on users back when carrying rucksack or breathing apparatus

- Weight: (M/L) 2500 g (± 15 g) • 88.18 oz. (± 0,5 oz)

CE 0123 • EN 358 • EN 813 • EN 361

[www.singingrock.cz](http://www.singingrock.cz)

# Controlling High loads with the PETZL ID

Paul Withington at Lyon Equipment (Petzl in the UK) has sent over this guidance note from Petzl concerning the control of high loads by use of frictional adjuncts:

## PETZL I'D and professional users

Early in 2009 PETZL launched an updated version of the I'D industrial descender (D200S and D200L).

The changes came from in-house development and customer feedback globally and have been well received across industry sectors.

At the same time they revised the product instructions to reflect both the physical improvements and provide additional technical guidance on use of the device. These new instructions and the techniques included in them are written for a broad range of users from different industries and with different skill levels.

For expert users there is a new section within the instructions specifically referring to lowering loads of up to 250kgs.

12

Heavy loads, exceptional uses for experts only

12B. Evaluation: Lowering from an anchor-point  
Maximum load: 250 kg  
- Use a rope of minimum diameter 10.5 mm.  
- Make a Munter hitch on the braking connector.  
- One person operates the handle of the device, while a second person holds the rope.

250 kg MAXIMUM

Ø ≥ 10,5 mm

When working with loads of this size additional friction is absolutely essential and Section 12 B shows a lowering technique using two personnel, one for releasing the handle and one to control the loaded rope using a Munter hitch on the braking connector. This Munter hitch method of creating additional friction can also be used with the original version of the I'D.

This technique is recommended by Petzl because it allows for the release of the I'D cam and the feeding the rope through the device as two separate independently controlled actions.

**Petzl does recognise that highly skilled professional and Emergency Service users may find alternative methods of creating additional friction that will allow a single operator to carry out the lowering function with an equivalent level of control.**

**To reassure these users that such alternatives are not automatically outlawed Petzl have produced a technical statement that can be considered as additional information to supplement the main instructions.**

This statement is available immediately from UK distributor Lyon Equipment Ltd [work.rescue@lyon.co.uk](mailto:work.rescue@lyon.co.uk) and will be available globally via the Petzl web site.

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A genuine breakthrough in advanced comfort technology, Bates Individual Comfort System gives the wearer the freedom to customize the comfort of their footwear. By using the new "dial" technology, each individual can choose the comfort zone that's right for them. After much success of the launch of this technology in the US, the Individual Comfort System line will be available in the European Union countries early 2010. Every individual is unique, and so are their foot comfort needs. The new adjustable comfort system from Bates can be adjusted for each individual's unique comfort tastes and requirements. Developed by the Bates Product Design Team and wear-tested by actual customers, the innovative "dial" technology offers a truly effective way for consumers to define all-day comfort on their own terms. The comfort system is not only highly flexible, but is easily customized. The adjustable comfort dial is built directly into the midsole of the shoe and is easily rotated to rest at one of four zones. Each zone satisfies different comfort needs and allows the user to put comfort where they want it. Here is how it works: **FIRM ZONE:** Increases energy return and maximizes all-day support **OUTWARD ZONE:** Reduces outward tilt and encourages natural walking motion and stability **CUSHION ZONE:** Increases heel cushioning and maximizes shock absorption **INWARD ZONE:** Reduces inward tilt and encourages natural walking motion and stability Focusing on end-users who typically spend much of the day on their feet, this footwear is designed specifically for law enforcement personnel with future strategic applications for the military.

[www.batesfootwear.com](http://www.batesfootwear.com)



# Rescue Challenge 2009



**United Kingdom Rescue Organisation (UKRO)**  
and Chief Fire Officers Association's (CFOA) Road Safety  
Conference  
**Glasgow, 10 -12 September 2009**

This year, the UKRO Annual Rescue Challenge and CFOA Road Safety Conference are being hosted by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service and will be held at the highly prestigious Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) on the banks of the River Clyde in Glasgow. The whole event is entitled 'Rescue on the Clyde' and what an event this promises to be.

- UKRO Rescue Challenges.**  
During Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September, the following Rescue challenges will be competed for by most of the UK's Fire and Rescue Services in or around the SECC -
- **Extrication Challenge** - only the top twenty teams from Fridays run off's will go through to the finals on Saturday. This is a keenly fought challenge and most teams will have commenced training months ago.
  - **Trauma challenge** - a very testing and realistic challenge for teams of two. This event has grown tremendously in popularity over the past two years thanks to the

- efforts and attention to detail by the team that put this challenge together.
- **Rope Rescue Challenge** - One of the UKRO's newer challenges but is keenly contested by those Services that have technical rescue or rope rescue teams. Like all events, the teams will be observed and have scores awarded only by UKRO trained assessors.
  - **Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Challenge** - much like rope rescue, this is a new event and this is the first year that teams will be in competition with each other rather than giving demonstrations as in years gone by. As well as the above challenges, teams are invited to attend up to three workshops which will be presented by experts from UKRO, they are
  - **LGV and PSV Learning Symposium** - teams will be updated with regards design and materials used in the manufacture of Large Goods Vehicles and the problems these present to firefighters.
  - **New Vehicle Technologies Learning Symposium** - crews will be brought up to date with modern construction methods, safety devices and systems incorporated into modern vehicles.
  - **Hybrid Vehicle Learning Symposium** - Those attending will be given cutting edge advice on how to deal with such incidents.

Over 500 firefighters will attend this event and some teams will be lucky enough to be presented with awards on Saturday evening at one of the SECC's theatre. Whilst the friendly rivalry is important and enjoyable, the real winners are those people, - who whilst unfortunate that they need to call upon the resources of the UK's Fire and Rescue Services, - find themselves being dealt with by firefighters who have taken part in a challenge, or attended a workshop and have spent months honing their skills, those firefighters that have levels of skills way beyond what they would have been had they not taken part.

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A trade expo and conference with extensive educational tracks and more than 50 90 minute sessions with subjects ranging from using chainsaws and elevator rescue to col-lapsed building searches and rail incidents.  
for details go to: [www.firehouseexpo.com](http://www.firehouseexpo.com)

**The Emergency Services Show 2009**  
Stoneleigh Park, Coventry  
24-25 November  
Improving Emergency Response

**24th, 25th**  
**November**  
Stoneleigh Park,  
Warwickshire, UK

The complex nature of today's emergencies makes it essential for the industry to work together to ensure a co-ordinated response. Now in its fourth year, The Emergency Services Show is leading the way in effectively promoting multi agency co-operation. It is made up of three main areas

- The free Exhibition of over 300 specialist equipment suppliers and service providers – providing access to the latest technology and innova-tions
- The free Networking Zone, made up of the Emergency Response Zone and Blue Light Zone – providing the opportunity to network with like-minded professionals and share best practice
- The Conference – exploring all phases of emergency management including operational and strategic planning

For further information visit [www.theemergencyservicesshow2009.com](http://www.theemergencyservicesshow2009.com)

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# Coming Up

We have some excellent books coming up including the mammoth 4th Edition of Wilderness Medicine by Paul Auerbach which we've mentioned a few times as being imminent but has been a larger undertaking than expected! Worth waiting for because this is just about the finest book in our library. One of the more unusual titles we have (unforgivably) yet to get to our Dive expert Sean Johnson is Underwater Crime Scene Investigation, a multi-authored ring-bound edition with surprisingly clear colour images. All of these will appear in the next few issues and we'll begin by mentioning this excellent 2009 edition of an original 1999 book also from Paul Auerbach....

**Medicine for the Outdoors,**  
5th Edition -  
Author: Paul S. Auerbach, MD, MS,  
FACEP, FAWM  
Paperback, 535 pages  
Publisher: Mosby Elsevier  
\$24.95, Softback  
ISBN:

**Textbook of Adult Emergency Medicine** 3rd Edition  
Authors: Cameron, Jelinek, Kelly, Murray, Brown  
Paperback, 1048 pages,  
Publisher: CHURCHILL LIVINGSTONE  
ISBN-13: 978-0-443-06819-5  
ISBN-10: 0-443-06819-4

**River Rescue** 4th Edition  
Paperback, 290 pages  
Authors: Les Bechdel & Slim Ray  
Copyright: 2009  
Size: 9" x 6"  
Publisher: CFS Press  
\$24.95  
ISBN: 978-0-9649585-6-2

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DAILY MAIL - LONDON - July 2009

# Health and safety row over man who died in 18in of water as 999 teams were told it was too risky to rescue him

By Stephen Wright

Police, firemen and paramedics refused to go to the aid of an accident victim who was drowning in just 18 inches of water... because they believed it was too dangerous.

A senior fire officer banned his men from using ropes and ladders to climb down a 15ft bank to the victim after carrying out a ‘risk assessment’.

Acting on advice, ten police officers who attended the emergency also failed to rescue father-of-three Karl Malton, 32, as he lay face down in the shallow water.

His body lay there for three hours after a decision was made to send for a ‘water rescue team’ based more than 50 miles away.

When relatives arrived at the scene, they found emergency workers standing around drinking tea.

An inquest into Mr Malton’s death yesterday heard that officers no longer have to swim or receive life-saving training.

Last night Mr Malton’s father Peter branded the emergency services’ response to the tragic accident as ‘unacceptable’.

The case has prompted fresh controversy over how health and safety restrictions are preventing the emergency services from fulfilling their most basic duties.

The issue flared up two years ago after another inquest heard how two police community support officers stood by while a ten-year-old boy drowned in a pond in Wigan.

Yesterday’s inquest in Spalding, Lincolnshire, heard that Mr Malton, a mechanic, was hit by a car as he walked along an unlit country road near his home in Crowland just after 11pm on May 13 last year.

The driver pulled up and dialled 999 but was told to stay in his car and not try to find the victim.

Paramedic Sonya Lawrence arrived within 14 minutes but began to search on the nearside of the car, although it was damaged on the offside.

Another 19 minutes later a second ambulance crew arrived and found Mr Malton, who had been thrown unconscious into the

dyke by the collision.

He was lying face down in the water and appeared to be dead.

Paramedic Fergus White climbed over a barrier before deciding it was too dangerous to go down the bank.

‘If we had access to him we would have carried out resuscitation but we had no access,’ he said.

‘The bank was very steep and unstable.’

Mr White admitted that he could not be ‘100 per cent sure’ that Mr Malton was dead.

After a further 28 minutes a team of firemen arrived and set up ladders and ropes on the bankside but were ordered to stop by senior officer Edward Holliday.

Mr Holliday said: ‘I made the assessment that it would be inadvisable to enter the dyke until a properly trained and prepared crew arrived.’

He called in a water rescue team from Lincoln, more than 50 miles away.

Mr Malton’s body was finally recovered using a boat at 2.18am, more than three hours after the crash.

A post-mortem examination revealed that he had drowned but could not determine how long he had been in the water before dying.

The inquest was told he would have been dead within ten minutes of entering the water.

Deputy Boston coroner Paul Cooper recorded a verdict of accidental death .

Mr Malton’s father Peter said in a statement: ‘Irrespective of the corner’s verdict about the actual cause and timing of my son’s death the fact remains that he was lying at the bottom of a ditch for three hours.

‘Whether he was dead or alive at the time does not alter the distress caused to the family.’

The family are now preparing a civil action for damages, while police, fire and ambulance services are all reviewing their procedures as a result of the tragedy.

archive article:  
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1203501/Health-safety-row-man-dies-water-ditch-999-services-stood-wait-ed.html#ixzzONTIVMPQz

**Being Legislated out of Rescue...the public perception comment page 14**

**And a recap of the 2007 incident:.....**

The TIMES - LONDON - 2007

# Police under orders not to save drowning victims

Daniel Foggo and Jack Grimston

The emergency services are being told not to attempt to save drowning people because of health and safety restrictions, it has emerged.

Amid a growing row over the failure of two police support officers to try to save a boy from drowning, both the police and the fire service disclosed this weekend that their frontline staff are instructed not to enter the water in case they put themselves in danger.

Officers are no longer required to be trained in swimming or lifesaving.

One police force closed its training pool five years ago for health and safety reasons after an accident and it has not reopened.

An inquest last week heard how two police community support officers (PCSOs) had stood by while a 10-year-old boy drowned in a pond in Wigan.

Senior officers with the Greater Manchester force, which employed them, said they acted “correctly”.



The pond in which Jordon Lyon drowned while trying to save his sister

The boy, Jordon Lyon, died despite a fully qualified police officer subsequently plunging into the water in an attempt to rescue him.

His force made it clear this weekend that the officer was acting on his own volition and contrary to advice.

The case has ignited a debate over whether PCSOs, who receive only a few weeks’ training and do not have full police powers, should be scrapped.

Ann Widdecombe, Conservative MP for Maidstone and the Weald and former Home Office minister, said: “In the last decade we really have got so bogged down in the compensation culture and procedures and fear of being sued that we’ve lost sight of the bigger picture completely.

“It’s barmy, we’ve lost sight of what the emergency services are for. They are there to help people. I am quite emotionally angry about this.

“Damn being a PCSO, what about being a human being? For the senior officer to say this was appropriate is unbelievable.”

Yesterday, David Blunkett, who introduced

PCSOs as home secretary, said he would have hoped that they would have let basic human concern for others override instructions not to enter the water.

“What was appropriate in these circumstances would be appropriate for PCSOs as human beings,” he said.

However, Greater Manchester police indicated that the PCSOs, a man and a woman, might not even have known how to swim.

PCSOs are not required to know how to swim when they join any force and Manchester police said it did not train them to do so.

“They are not trained to swim and they don’t need to be able to swim to be a PCSO in Manchester,” said a spokeswoman, who refused to confirm whether the two officers could swim.

The situation with fully trained police officers is similar.

The spokeswoman said: “The officers are advised not to go into the water. They are not trained in water rescue.”

Officers like Sergeant Craig Lippitt, who attempted to rescue Jordon by stripping off and diving in of his own volition, were acting against instructions, although they would not be disciplined for rescuing someone, the spokeswoman said.

Firefighters who attempt the same are not necessarily so fortunate.

In March a 42-year-old firefighter, Tam Brown, saved a woman in the River Tay.

He was later informed he could face disciplinary action.

Roddy Robertson, executive council member of the Scottish Fire Brigades Union, said most firefighters had absolutely no training in rescuing drowning people.

“We don’t think the responsibility lies with us, we aren’t trained and we aren’t funded. We think it lies with the police but

we don’t know if they are funded for it,” he said.

If a force decides to train its officers in water rescue, there are three gradings of competence.

Level one involves not entering the water but throwing a line to the victim from dry land;

level two entails wading out attached to a harness; and level three deals with rescues in fast running water.

“Less than 10% of staff in Scotland are trained to level one or above,” said Robertson.

Training is thought to be equally patchy in England.

Duncan Milligan, spokesman for the Fire Brigades Union, said: “It varies from fire authority to fire authority whether they have people trained to carry out water rescues.”

Firefighters untrained in water rescue would almost certainly attempt to help despite the official advice because of their innate desire to save people, he said.

“It is what rescuers call the moral dilemma, in other words when life is threatened to a member of the public, do they try and effect a rescue

whether or not they have the training and equipment to carry it out, thereby risking their own lives?”

Lippitt evidently had no problem wrestling with the “moral dilemma”.

By the time he arrived at the pond where Jordon had got into trouble while trying to rescue his eight-year-old stepsister Bethany, the boy was submerged.

The two PCSOs had arrived some time earlier but not attempted any kind of rescue.

Anthony Ganderton, Jordon’s stepfather, who also dived in after arriving at the scene, said: “The proper police officer did a brilliant job when he arrived.

He didn’t hesitate, he was straight in.

But the other two were there before him.

Why didn’t they do something? It might have made the difference for Jordon.”

Jordon had been playing at the pond, a flooded mine shaft, with Bethany and his younger brothers.

Two fishermen, John Collinson and Bert Wright, noticed that Bethany and Jordon were in the water, with the girl being held up by her brother, who was already submerged.

Wright went in up to his chest and tried to reach Bethany with his rod.

When it broke he managed to grab the girl and pull her to safety, despite going under the water himself at one point.

They alerted the emergency services, but the first arrivals were the two bike-riding PCSOs who “just stood there”, according to Collinson, before Lippitt arrived.

The Manchester force said Jordon would have been beyond help by the time the PCSOs arrived, since he had been submerged for 10 or 15 minutes.

Assistant Chief Constable Dave Thompson said: “The two PCSOs involved did not stand by and watch Jordon die.

They acted correctly and I fully support the actions they took.

“By the time they arrived, Jordan had disappeared under the water.

He had been under the water for some time and there was no indication as to where he was in the lake.”

According to the rulebook, Thompson is correct.

Under guidance from the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo), constables, let alone PCSOs, are advised not even to enter the water if they cannot see the person who is in trouble.

“You may end up with another serious situation and another person drowning,” said an Acpo spokesman.

Rescuing people drowning is undoubtedly dangerous.

In 1999 Paul Metcalfe, a Bury firefighter, died after trying to retrieve a drowning teenager from a pond.

Untrained in water rescues and ill-equipped, he went into the water with a line but succumbed to hypothermia.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) later decided to prosecute the Manchester fire authority.

But while Manchester fire and rescue services are now better equipped at water rescuing than some other brigades, the general reaction across the country appears to have been to tell firefighters to take no chances, and that attitude has spread to

the police.

In July this year [2007], the Metropolitan police were fined £75,000 and ordered to pay £50,000 in costs after pleading guilty to breaching health and safety laws after two 14-year-old boys, Gameli Akuklu and William Kadama, died at a children’s event in 2002 in the swimming pool at the force’s training college in Hendon, north London.

Brian Paddick, who retired from the Met in May as a deputy assistant commissioner, said: “At that time all recruits were trained to swim and, when they could, they were trained in lifesaving.

“As a result of this incident, the then commissioner, John Stevens, ordered the pool to be filled in.

Since then, officers have not been trained in swimming or lifesaving.”

Paddick, now running as the Liberal Democrat candidate for London mayor, said the approach of the police nationally to health and safety had also been shaken by the death of Kulwant Sidhu, an officer who fell to his death while chasing a suspect across a roof.

The HSE brought a prosecution which, although it failed, cost £3m and saw Stevens and his predecessor, Lord Condon, brought before the Old Bailey.

“They were prosecuted because they had not instructed officers not to risk their lives operating at height,” said Paddick.

“That now extends to forces telling police community support officers not to get involved in emergencies or in violent situations.

They are told to withdraw and call the police.”

Paddick said that officers in the Met were supposed to call for back-up from the fire brigade or a lifeboat if they encountered someone drowning, but he said most had the “self-confidence” to ignore the rules if a life was in danger.

He added: “Community support officers do not have that self-confidence, and standing on the shore watching is just one example of that.”

## PUBLIC RESPONSES to the DAILY MAIL Article:

Too dangerous. Where the hell is the courage! The disregard for personal safety that fills any HUMAN BEING ..ARE THESE people just programmed androids! SHAME SHAME ON THEM ALL!

Dave, uk,

The firefighters and paramedics should spend an afternoon in the company of our troops in Afghanistan, where they could sit down with a nice cup of tea and prepare a risk assessment to see whether it would be safe to return fire from the Taliban or run for it.. Our reputation as a nation is plummeting by the second and it seems that nothing can be done about it.

Maldwyn, camarthen, s. Wales,

How anyone could stand by drinking tea while watching a fellow human being die in a shallow depth of water is beyond me. How do those people sleep at night? Are they

being insulted that a persons life is unworthy enough nowdays to be standing having a cup of tea in that situation. What is the world coming to

E Houweling, Peterborough

They all should hang their heads in shame - hagar, UK,

Rescue is by definition dangerous, God forbid some weak kneed manager puts himself in harms way to help another. I despair.

Grumpy Tom, Ludlow,

Unbelievable. Words fail me.

Jo, surrey,

I just cannot believe this country won two World wars. Is there no-one out there with a back-bone or athe ability to think for themselves anymore??

- Eileen, Herts England,

Aren't these people paid by public taxpayers money to SAVE LIVES. Absolutely disgusting.

- M Appleton, Wilts, UK,

What the hell is happening in this country? - wa, Oxfordshire,

As a relative of Mr malton's two eldest son's I hope the way the emergency services acted in rescuing karl will never be used again and procedures will be adjusted so another family never have to suffer the way his family and friends have with his unfortunate death. I am sure I am not alone in

Had it been their relative would they have stood by & done nothing.

Phillip, Staffordshire

Last week a young Rifleman fell whilst carrying a wounded comrade to safety, both fell together, no risk assessment here, two young infantrymen - no greater love ....!

Wills, Southampton,

Seems like human life holds far less value than bureaucratic rules nowadays. My sympathies to the family; my disgust at the emergency services.

TonyD, Cheltenham, UK,

Just unbelievable. How could anyone stand by and let this man drown.? They should be ashamed.

Maxwell's mum, Brighton England

Usual excuses, risk assesment. Prompt action could well have saved an innocent victim.

- local man, exeter england

Un-be-leave-able . What total incompetence. How can these people sleep at night.

MDW, UK,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17.....





# Being Legislated out of Rescue ....the Public Perception

Ade Scott rants

*The strap line on our website homepage contains a statement from myself and Jim Segerstrom to the effect that as rescuers, Health & Safety is legislating us out of a job....."TRm will continue to promote common sense in an industry being strangled by politics and legislation".*

Jim was no stranger to conflict with senior management and my own run-ins with underqualified officers with no real knowledge of special rescue gradually convinced me that the days of 'thinking on your feet' were numbered. Take a good look at the main picture here and relocate these 'government employees' to the incidents on the preceding pages. Notwithstanding that you can't trust a thing you read in the newspapers to be accurately reported and if there's a way to add to the drama they'll find it, the bottom line with this and the notorious other incident involving two police officers who weren't qualified to swim to the rescue of a drowning child is that not only is legislation strangling the rescue industry, it seems that basic human nature has also bowed to nonsensical commands from on high. It's not my place to criticise the personnel in either of these incidents because I'm sure there was immense frustration on the part of those on-scene and livelihoods can be at stake when you cross certain types of officer but..... Even allowing for poetic reporting one has to wonder why a 'bystander rescue' wasn't implemented by somebody on-scene. I have witnessed and been involved in a number of idiotic incidents where we, as the emergency services, either have or could have been made to look far less than heroic. A recent televised 'fly-on-the-wall' incident was virtually a carbon-copy of the Lincolnshire incident with the exception that the victim survived prolonged exposure lying face-down in moving water. In the case of trauma incidents it's been my experience that having a full-blown trauma doc on your team focuses the minds of officers more to the task in hand than a telling-off about health & Safety! A less obvious non-trauma related TRU incident a few years was the writing on the wall for me -It involved 3-storeroys of scaffold that had come adrift from a prominent high street building in gales and was swaying dangerously from pivot points at the base. The Technical Rescue Unit assisted by local fire crews was tasked with stopping the inevitable collapse and after some vary precarious manoeuvres from the roof top succeeded in capturing some key load points on the wall of scaffolding that was now several feet away from our roof access and swaying 3 to 5 feet in the winds. We started a multi-point haul to bring it back into line without buckling the mid-section. Although the police had closed off the high street they hadn't

evacuated the shops and offices opposite which of course had substantial glass frontage behind which the workers were watching the 'drama'. We later learned that a film crew was also filming from the end of the exclusion zone. Our hauling-in hit a snag when some scaffold poles half way down butted up against a window lintel. I abseiled down between the building and scaffold to clear the jam and on arriving back at the top was informed that we had been called off the incident because it was deemed too much of a liability issue to continue when there was no direct threat to life. I begged to differ. This decision was taken by a senior officer at HQ despite being advised by the station officer on scene that this was unwise since the scaffold represented a significant hazard to shops, buildings and occupants. At the time I asked what on earth the general public would think seeing us all turn up in a dozen fire and rescue vehicles and then drive away with the road still closed and scaffold about to collapse! Prior to promotion the on-scene officer in charge had actually been a member of the Technical Rescue Unit and was therefore well acquainted with the procedures we had adopted. Despite being a fireservice Unit staffed primarily by firefighters I was a contracted rescue specialist and as head of the Unit opted not to stand down. The OIC backed my decision and got my firefighter 2ic to sign a waiver stating that the Unit was now a detached entity effectively working as an unpaid contractor rather than as the Fire Service. Not one of the Unit firefighters had any doubts about the validity of the task and opted to stay, two firefighters attending while on-duty and released from their crews for the incident booked off duty with Control in order to continue with the incident. My local fire crew didn't have the luxury of that decision and were disgusted at having to leave us in the lurch. With reduced manpower it took us another couple of tense hours before we succeeded in fully capturing and securing the entire scaffold and handing the scene back to the scaffolders who had been advising us throughout. The point of this humdrum sojourn is to demonstrate that nonsensical decisions are nothing new in the UK fire service and that public perception of the service is not given enough regard. The next day a half page article and photograph praised the efforts of the fire service and TRU -if the scaffold had collapsed AFTER we had arrived and then left it would have been a very different headline. With regard to the Lincolnshire incident I have to say that *rescue* in the sense of extraction of persons from a position of peril is not necessarily the job of ambulance or police personnel despite public perceptions so they cannot be held entirely to account for inaction



at a scene that is usually under the direction of the primary rescue services' officers. Except for some specialist sections they signed up for law enforcement or treating injured and ill persons not jumping into water, off cliffs /buildings or down a sewer. In contrast a firefighter and any other rescue service personnel have signed on knowing that there is an acceptable degree of risk attached to their job. Any of you out there now muttering about any rescuer life lost is one life too many and if health and safety measures can improve rescuer mortality that's a good thing are in the wrong job.....

***If health and safety measures protect rescuers at the expense of the lives of people needing rescue then something is badly wrong.***

In the Jordon Lyon case that initially highlighted the Health & Safety row - if there was no identifiable casual-

ty on the surface of the water then the decision by the two PCSOs not to go in was probably quite right. Had there been a child thrashing about and they had failed to take action that would have been a different matter. The general public think that rescuers face death and danger on every shift. Actually there are some services and stations in certain countries and certain cities or areas that actually DO face danger and death on every shift but I can assure you that nowhere in the entire UK faces this problem. Taxi drivers and rubbish/garbage collectors have a more dangerous job than firefighters in statistical terms. In fact, if cardiac arrest, which is particularly prevalent in US fire dept deaths were taken out of the equation the figures would be even lower. If the dangers faced by rescuers continue to be mitigated in the same way as industry protects it's workers then the traditional image of a firefighter or rescuer as being a heroic figure commanding respect will truly be lost. My parents recently came across an elderly dog owner in some woodland who's jack russel terrier had chased a rabbit down a hole and become trapped. After an hour of his

pet's whining and howling the owner figured the fire brigade was his best option. An officer was duly dispatched to assess the situation. My parents waited with the owner and reassured him that the fire brigade would soon have his pet out. The officer arrived, surveyed the scene, noted that the dog was indeed wholly entrapped and apologised that he was unable to call in a crew because he didn't know who's land he was on. My parents were dumbfounded and despite being pensioners themselves proceeded to take it in turns to dig out the terrified dog with some tools they had in their car. My father in particular was further outraged that the officer stood by and watched the entire process without offering to help. What kind of perception do these members of the public now have of firefighters having met this one, hopefully non-representative individual? Scathing to say the least. I know that most of you will be saying that this simplest of incidents couldn't possibly happen in your service but the damage done to the image of all emergency services from these reports and experiences is immeasurable - respect is being eroded and the more the public read or personally witness safety legisla-

tion being enforced on the one hand while reading about the death and danger faced by troops on the other the less respect there will be. Pretty soon you may have to sign up as a mailman to get the adrenaline rush that attracted you to an inherently dangerous job in the first place. Firefighters in the UK were banned from performing the fireman's lift because of back-injury risks - can you imagine a soldier in Afghanistan failing to carry out an injured mate due to concerns over back injury. Frankly it's all unnecessarily embarrassing.

**How the public sees it.....CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15**

Too late for the victim and family now , but I am in despair to keep reading articles and reports that indicate the EMERGENCY services are seeming to take more time looking out for themselves before assisting persons in desperate need of help..... 18 inches of water ... not even knee depth and a young man face down and injured. What equipment did this specialist team use when they eventually rescued the victim.. AQUALUNGS and FLIPPERS ? H & S gone mad .. what s the next excuse for the EMERGENCY services for not attempting their jobs ? ... fires too hot / water too wet / patients too ill PS.My nephew is a fireman and WANTS to help  
- Eli, ex-pat , France,

The bottom-line guys, if you're not brave and prepared to take a risk, then Joe Public does not want you in the fire or police services. go and find another job.  
- Barry, uk,

Aren't these people paid by public taxpayers money to SAVE LIVES. Absolutely disgusting.  
- M Appleton, Wilts, UK,

Shame on them all. They are a product of our namby pamby state. God help us our emergency services are wimps not a back bone between them. Can you imagine that lot in an national crisis like the blitz! Oh lets do a risk assessment. Get rid of the lot and get some real men in post.  
- ray, Manchester England,

For once I back legal action in this instance and hope this family receive a big payout. Maybe then those in the higher echelons of the Police and Fire Brigade will realise they face a huge payout if they don't do their job and try to save lives, rather than simply being worried about the perceived well-being of their staff.  
- Susan, Chelsea, England,

Absolutely disgusting. Typical health and safety gone mad has resulted in a tragic death.  
- Emily, Oxford, UK,

This is terrible: how many more people have to die before someone in authority comes to their senses about all the health and safety laws. So, okay, the bank of the ditch was deep - 15 feet - but I really can't understand why someone at least couldn't have been lowered into the ditch, having first being secured round their waist with a rope or perhaps a harness of some sort. Otherwise what is the point of having rescue services?  
- Judith, King's Lynn, Norfolk, England,

Why don't we just disband the police and fireservice they seem to have lost the plot,, becoming just a bunch of wimps. As for those non job helf & safety their on an empire building ego trip. Useless lot.  
- ann, london UK

an absolute disgrace, sack them all !  
- Steve, Warwick, **AND IT WENT ON.....**





Above: Weber County Sheriff Search & Rescue is a multi-discipline team comprising separate teams for Mountain rescue, underwater recovery, swiftwater rescue, mounted posse, winter rescue, off-highway vehicle extrication and canine. Included in their water assets is this Airboat - see issue 57 of TRm for a full review of Airboats in rescue.



# THE COST OF ANIMAL RESCUES

Report from Western Morning News-UK Highlighted by Dr Rebecca Gimenez and Slim Ray ANIMAL rescues by West Country firefighters have cost more than £1.2 million in the last five years, the WMN can reveal.

The creatures in distress included a sheep on the roof of a bungalow, a 5ft iguana stuck up a chimney and a squirrel running loose in a shop. There were also 999 calls for several horses and a donkey taking a dip in swimming pools, a budgie stuck behind a heater and a rabbit trapped in the springs of a bed.

Firefighters in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset were called out more than 2,300 times to deal with trapped animals in the last five years. The sums involved confirm the West Country as a region of animal lovers. Across the three counties, helping dogs cost £156,000, cats more than £100,000, cows almost £400,000 and horses a total of £375,000. The bill for rescuing scores of seagulls and pigeons also ran into thousands. Last night, fire chiefs insisted that they were right to use public money to help pets, farm animals and wildlife.

The rescues could often provide useful training for when a human found themselves in difficulty. Deterring people from dialing 999 could lead to them getting into danger as well if they attempted a rescue themselves. But critics said only the most serious incidents should be tackled by firefighters, given the "very large" amounts of public money spent rescuing their furry and feathered friends. Across Devon, Cornwall and Somerset, the emergency services are called upon to rescue an animal almost nine times a week, according to figures obtained by the WMN under Freedom of Information laws.

The Westcountry's two most expensive rescues from 2004-2009 were both in Cornwall. An estimated bill of almost £10,000 was run up during a 40-hour rescue of a calf down a shaft in St Ives in December 2005. The call-out records note: "Rescue attempt made in daylight but unsuccessful due to partial collapse of shaft."

And in February 2006, a mammoth 50-hour rescue cost more than £12,000 after a dog fell down a shaft. The dog was rescued unharmed. Over five years, the bill in Cornwall for rescuing animals totaled £167,682.

A Cornwall Fire Service spokesman said no charge was made if the RSPCA made a request for help in rescuing an animal "for humanitarian reasons". If a member of the public requested an animal rescue and the animal had a "monetary value" such as livestock, the fire service would discuss with the owner whether they had an insurance policy to cover the

animal and whether they would be claiming from the policy. If so, a charge may be made to the owner. "The fire service is wary of making a charge for rescuing animals as this may result in individuals attempting to rescue the animal themselves and putting themselves in danger.

"If this should happen, the financial cost of rescuing the animal and would-be rescuer may well be greater and may well have more serious implications."

The Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service calculated the cost involved based on its standard rate for call-out charge.

In Devon, the total came to £368,472 over five years and in Somerset £683,280.

Bernard Hughes, chairman of the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority, said he wanted the public to think they were calling "a can-do service". "We try to maintain a friendly and helpful relationship with the general public. If people think we can help, then ask. But there is obviously a price on this. "The general public get very distressed when they see animals and birds in distress. I wouldn't like to see the time coming when a member of the public calls for help and we choose not to respond because of the cost.

"But people ringing and asking for help should just be absolutely certain that there is no other way that this bird or animal can be helped. I would hope that not too many people will criticise us." However, some warned that livesaving firefighters should not be called out every time an animal got into trouble.

Susie Squire, campaign manager for the Taxpayers' Alliance pressure group, said: "It is absolutely natural to want to save pets and farm animals from distress or dangerous situations.

"But a very large amount of taxpayers' money is being spent on what is essentially not the core work of the fire brigade, which could potentially put human lives at risk at some stage.

There needs to be some perspective and only the most perilous animals in distress should be followed up by the fire brigade."

But it is not just animals at the centre of unorthodox rescues for West Country firefighters. In March, it emerged that crews were called out on average once a month to help lift obese people, at an estimated total cost of £119,000 in the last five years. The 21 call-outs to lift obese people in Cornwall since 2004 was estimated to have cost the public purse £48,000 while the Devon and Somerset brigade attended 31 incidents with a £71,000 price tag.

The incidents in Devon and Somerset included both men and women being lifted from upstairs windows while in Cornwall, help was needed by a 21-stone woman who had fallen over. Firefighters were also called in to winch a 29-stone man through a caravan window.



TRU, New Milton and MRV fire crews expend considerable time and effort to rescue a cow trapped in mud. Far from feeling that animal rescues were a waste of tax payers money Hampshire Fire & Rescue went on to invest in dedicated animal rescue officers and equipment for such tasks.

MISSING THE POINT....AGAIN If ever there was a contrived story this is it and we see it so often in relation to that old scare-mongering statement 'cost to the taxpayer'.

ALL animal rescues, obese casualty lifts and numerous other 'trivial' rescues that the Fire Service might be called upon to perform are valid and the costs quoted are often absolute nonsense. If full time fire crews are on a station cleaning the yard, cleaning the trucks or doing physical exercise training (PT) they are costing the taxpayer virtually the same as when they are out on a job. The only difference is that being on a job IS serving the taxpayer, is creating goodwill in the community, is keeping the crews occupied and motivated and most importantly is often good training especially where

large animals, technical entrapments and obese humans are concerned. Costs to taxpayer only occur where the fire crews involved are retained (part-time) which in the UK involves a payment per callout and this could well be the case with rural brigades like Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. Nevertheless, we need to get away from this nonsensical attitude that a full time firefighter on any call other than a fire or vehicle extrication is using up valuable resources and is being distracted from a possible life-threatening call - believe me, if any incident occurs while a crew is engaged in getting a cat out of tree or a dog out of a hole they will immediately prioritise and get on their way!

IN the case of the voluntary sector operating on a call-out basis - RNLI, inshore rescue, mountain rescue, cave rescue etc and coastguard teams there may well be an argument for 'trivial' calls costing money since all these folk have day-jobs that have to be left to attend a call. Even here though, most will say they want to go regardless of how 'trivial' the call, that's why they joined rescue.

Back to the full-time services and the other thing to consider in the "wasting of taxpayers' money" argument is just how much money is wasted on everything from ineffectual management, inappropriate equipment purchases, to smoke alarm installations and checks that should have been civilianised decades ago.

£1.2 million in five years for animal rescues is an exaggerated figure that doesn't take into account the costs involved in the same period of the same fire crews doing absolutely nothing. I suspect the actual costs would be in the hundreds of thousands in the case of retained crews and if these were whole time crews then probably only a few thousand for fuel, equipment renewal and overtime!

The fire service is here to serve and aside from the perennial lazy old-hand that every watch/station seems to have who will moan about anything that drags him away from the TV, crews actually WANT to get out and help. If you really want to question where tax payers' money is being wasted there are plenty of other more tangible culprits. ADE SCOTT



in the  
UK

# REED THORNE

## 7-day RIGGING COURSES

**3rd May 2010 Personal Rescue Skills S.W England**  
**17th May 2010 Team Rescue Skills Fort William, Scotland**

Having previously mentioned that Reed would be in the UK & Europe in the Autumn, we managed to persuade him that a winter in the UK was nobody's idea of fun so we've now finalised dates in the much more climate friendly month of May. Reed is hosting a 7-day Team Skills course in Fort William, Scotland aimed at mountain, cliff and wilderness teams on the 17th May and earlier on the 3rd May a Personal Skills course in the West Country aimed at everyone from urban-industrial and confined space rescuers to sea cliff and SAR team members.

If you want to learn the art of team and/or personal rescue rigging from one of the world's most knowledgeable, charismatic and experienced experts email us now for course availability. Courses are 7-days of intense learning with only 10-places per course so there is plenty of opportunity for 'face'-time with Reed.

Prices do not include accommodation or food but these are available at very reasonable rates nearby - our info pack will detail the options.

CERTIFICATE for successful course completion

## Limited Course Places £600. per person\*

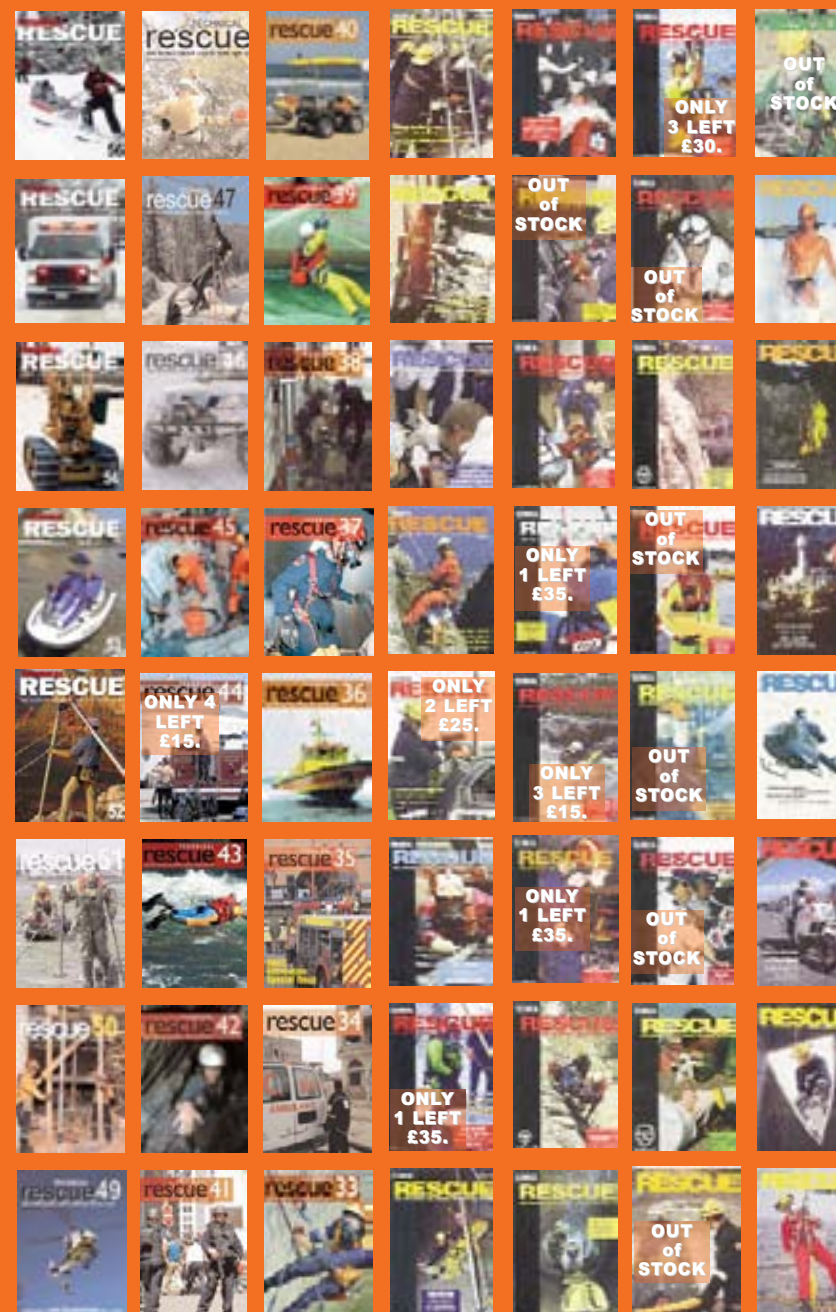
\* Cost excludes VAT, accommodation & food  
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Petzl/Lyon Abseil gloves, RIG Feild Ops Guide for Swiftwater & Flood Rescue, TNT Cutters, Champion BEAST Combi-Tool, Res-Q-Jack Spacesaver Strut, Ruffwear Dog shoes, Masimo RAD-57 Pulse oximeter, Hemcon Bandage, Otter PDA protective boxes

### EVENT

Lyon Technical Symposium September 2006

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Leicestershire Fire & Rescue - UK

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Hand powered Hydraulic tools

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### ROPE RESCUE:

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## BACK ISSUES

# FOCUS ON ISSUE 48

Printed in Autumn 2006 Issue 48 was not our favourite cover as it turned out because the colours got a bit washed out at print. It looked far better on screen, more vibrant greens and contrasting yellow on the rescuer and the A-frame. The issue number was also a bit lost in the paler background - it does say 48, honest. The picture was from Rob Turan's article on *National Park Service rope training in Tennessee*.



Doc Stewart Boyd reported on a vicious looking trench trauma where the victim was impaled by his own spade as he tried to fend off the collapsing trench wall. The result was a brutal thoracotomy. Netcare paramedics Wayne Thompson, Air crew Calvin Heuer and our own Doc Boyd give a detailed timeline analysis. Accompanying this article was one by Californian firefighter **Guy Brown** discussing what can or should be done by first responding crews who may not have the training or resources to fully deal with a *trench rescue*.

Stathis Avramidis has just received his PhD based on this earlier version of his study into risk assessment for water rescue - both the victims and the rescuers. It's rather disconcerting title was *The Multidimensional 4W Model of Lifesaving Risk Assessment in Aquatic Environments*.

Two Gear Reviews this issue - the first was of Singing Rock's short-lived foray into rescue knives and we reviewed this under the same criterion as the previous issue's Back to Back on Rescue Knives. This gave us an actual score for the knife which could then be compared back to the previous 4 or 5 models. The larger review was of *Sealine's* excellent **ProPack and Duffels** for water rescue. These are fine products that we still use today. What turned out to be Jim Segerstrom's final article for us was part 9 of his mammoth series on Swiftwater & Flood and focused on Boat Operations. Jim did all his own diagrams for these articles and had he lived the completed series would have made a magnificent book.





# FRONT COVERS

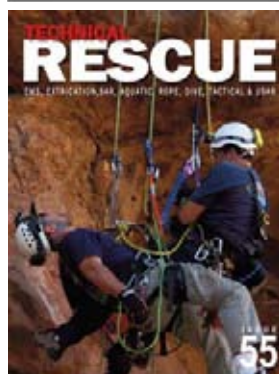
## That didn't quite make it

Every issue we have an idea of what we would like to see on the front cover and every issue something else seems to come in at the last minute to change our minds. We sometimes have to stretch the link a bit thin to justify a cover we like for instance the mud rescue cover on 51 which only had a gallery page to justify such a prominent cover and in the end didn't reproduce as well as we would have liked.

Prior to our head-on ambulance shot from Ontario we were sure that the Cornish Search & Rescue team shot (top right) would be perfect for issue 55 as they were the subject of our Team Profile. However, it turned out that the only version available was too low a resolution to make the grade- this was a big disappointment because we loved the dark greens and black. Our fall back cover was another fine shot from Reed's collection which are always magnificent because the rocks of Sedona, Arizona are so photogenic. We also considered one of mine - a shot of an RNLI Beach rescue vehicle on Watergate Bay the great surfing beach in North Cornwall - we could justify this one because our Vehicle Gallery was Surf 4x4s and we did in fact use this shot to illustrate a British Surf Rescue vehicle in contrast to all the other ones featured which were from the US.

In the end, Ivan submitted the ambulance shot with his article on dealing with epilepsy and because we had recently had rope rescue and water rescue we thought a medical wouldn't go amiss. Plus we really like the in-ner-face look which we felt matched the style of the previous two covers.

The previous issue, 54 had no such variation - we knew the cover was going to be a robot we just couldn't decide which. The Team article was GHOST a specialist team provided by QinetiQ to fire services and transport authorities to deal with hazardous materials and provide real-time intel. The two shots bottom right featured Black Max and Bison and were the obvious choice because they were used the most. However, I'd recently been working with special forces in the Middle East and had a hankering to feature SWORD an overtly combat rather than rescue platform but a tough beast that could easily be reconfigured I put it to the peer review lads and luckily they agreed that it looked the punchiest. Phew!



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