Orientation to Cave Rescue
Co-sponsored by
The National Cave Rescue Commission
and
Oregon Caves National Monument

When: Wednesday & Thursday, June 6 & 7, 2012

Where: Oregon Caves National Monument

Course Description: A two-day, hands-on, overview of rescue techniques specifically applicable to caves. Topics will include cave environment, equipment, conservation, logistics, access and stabilization, and evacuation techniques. Instruction will be conducted in a practical, hands-on method. The training will be held at (and in) Oregon Cave, and will make use of both the developed and undeveloped (wild cave tour) segments of the cave.

Cost: $35 per person (pre-registration required, details below)

Personal Requirements: Cave rescue activities are physically demanding and potentially hazardous. Participants must be in good physical health and must sign a liability waiver. **Persons under 18 years of age must contact the registrar prior to registering.** Students should expect confined spaces and difficult situations, and **must be properly equipped for the cave environment.**

Required Personal Equipment: All necessary tools and equipment will be furnished for students except personal caving/safety equipment. All students must have at the following equipment available for inspection at check-in:

A. UIAA approved helmet with non-elastic chinstrap and quick release buckle
B. Three (3) independent sources of light, at least two (2) capable of helmet mounting, at least two (2) electric, each sufficient to allow exit from cave
C. Sturdy, rubber soled boots (lugged sole)
D. Rugged clothing for a wet, cold, abrasive cave environment: e.g. coveralls or other rugged exterior clothing, synthetic thermal underwear, knee pads (a must), elbow pads (recommended). (Avoid using expensive clothing – the cave will destroy it.)
E. Gloves with full fingers, leather or rubberized recommended for grip and protection
F. Water bottle(s)
G. Small, personal first-aid kit
H. Small, heavy-duty pack or knapsack for carrying personal equipment underground

Equipment Sanitation: All clothing and equipment must be clean and either new or sanitized (according to USFS standards) to prevent potential spread of white nose syndrome, a disease impacting bat populations in the eastern United States and potentially present in the West. If you require sanitation instructions or advice, contact John Punches.

Registration Details: Pre-registration Required! This class is open to National Park Service employees and NPS volunteers, as well as to cavers and employees/volunteers affiliated with law enforcement or search and rescue units. Persons affiliated with the NPS may reserve their space in the class by contacting Chief Ranger Tammie Henderson at Oregon Caves National Monument at Tammie_Henderson@nps.gov or by phone at 541-592-2100 ext 2275 or 541-415-2169. All other interested persons must contact John Punches at pacificnorthwest@ncrc.info or call 541-530-3105. Total registration is limited – so register soon.

On-site Registration: Participants must meet at Oregon Caves National Monument no later than 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 6. Arrive with your gear ready (but you do not need to be dressed to enter the cave). Registration will be conducted on site prior to instruction. Students must sign a liability waiver, and complete a registration form. A registration fee of $35 per student is required (make checks payable to NCRC PNW) unless fees have been prepaid by the NPS or other agency.
Special Notes for Minors: Minors (under age 18) may be permitted in the class provided they are accompanied by an adult who agrees to act as their guardian and is also enrolled in the class. Minors' liability waivers must be signed by a parent or legal guardian, so if that person will not be accompanying the student a waiver form must be requested in advance and returned completed at the time of the class. Contact John Punches at pacificnorthwest@ncrc.info for more information or to request a liability waiver form for a minor.

Schedule (subject to modification depending on student needs/progress):

Wednesday, June 6

9:00 a.m.   On-site registration
9:30 a.m.   Welcome, introductions, overview of course, what the National Cave Rescue Commission does
10:00 a.m.  Cave environment, considerations for personal equipment and rescue
11:00 a.m.  Patient Packaging overview, considerations, practice
1:00 p.m.   Lunch & gear up for in-cave activities
2:00 p.m.   Patient Movement (litter handling) techniques, above-ground and in-cave practice
5:00 p.m.   Dinner
6:30 p.m.   Optional session on ropes and rigging techniques for cave rescue
8:30 p.m.   Adjourn for evening

Thursday, June 7

8:00 a.m.   Rescue timelines, medical considerations, stabilization and packaging techniques for specific injuries common in cave rescue incidents
10:00 a.m.  Cave rescue incident management strategies; in-cave scenarios
12:30 p.m.  Lunch (at upper cave entrance)
1:00 p.m.   Mock rescue scenario
4:30 p.m.   Scenario critique/debriefing
5:00 p.m.   Class concludes

Accommodations/Facilities:

Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the seminar site, for lodging, and for meals.

Lodging Options:

- The Chateau at the Oregon Caves. See www.oregoncaveschateau.com for rates, availability and registration.
- Several motels are available in Cave Junction, which is about a 25 minute drive from Oregon Caves NM. See http://www.cavejunction.com/cavejunction/lodging.shtml for options.
- Camping is available at Cave Creek Camp Ground (operated by the USFS). It is at milepost 16 (3 miles below Oregon Caves). $10 per night, 18 sites (tent or tent/RV), vault toilets, water available. More details at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/pnw/programs/latlong/campground/oregon/north ישן וספסל (scroll down to find info for Cave Creek CG).

Meals Options:

- Cave Café (at Oregon Caves). Burgers, fries, etc.
- Chateau Dining Room (at Oregon Caves). For the upscale diner. Reservations recommended.
- Fast food and diners in Cave Junction (but don’t count on having time to drive there and back for lunch)
- Bring your own (necessary for lunch on day two – recommended for lunch on day one)
About the NCRC

The National Cave Rescue Commission is an educational unit within the National Speleological Society (NSS). It develops and delivers cave rescue training programs both at a national level and within each of its regions. The Commission also: maintains lists of cave rescue trained individuals and makes this information available to agencies with cave rescue jurisdiction, maintains an equipment cache which can be accessed for rescues, and encourages cooperation between agencies and other rescue-oriented organizations. The NCRC does not provide rescue services, does not have members, and does not certify individuals or entities. It is a training and resource tracking service.

The commission is led by a Board of Regional Coordinators representing each of the 10 NCRC regions (Caribbean, Central, Eastern, Northeastern, Western, Rocky Mountain, Pacific Northwest, South Central, Southeastern, and Southwestern). The Board also includes a National Coordinator, Medical Coordinator, Diving Coordinator, and Training Coordinator. Board members are appointed by the NSS Board of Governors.

The Pacific Northwest Region is comprised of Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. For more information about the NCRC and/or its activities in the Pacific Northwest, please contact:

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For information on other NCRC training opportunities, visit [www.ncrc.info](http://www.ncrc.info).