



# Alpine Rescue Team

Experience - Commitment - Safety

Alpine Rescue Team has responded to wilderness emergencies since 1959; providing mountain search and rescue, day or night, 24/7. Always free to any individual or agency in need of our expertise and assistance.

## Experience:

- Over 50 Years of providing Search and Rescue in Colorado.
- 450 Mountain Search and Rescue Calls in past 5 years
- 250 Years of experience from current Incident Commanders/Operation Leaders.
- 50-70 Highly-Trained, Non-paid Professional Rescue Mountaineers.
- **Training/Mission/Public Education:** Man-hours
  - 19,000 hrs - Average Training/Mission Man-hours per year
  - 7,000 hrs - Average Public Education/Outreach Man-hours per year

## Credibility:

- FEMA Type I Mountain Rescue Team (2004 FEMA designation)
- 1 of 12 Colorado Teams Accredited by the Mountain Rescue Association in the following disciplines:
  - Technical Rock Rescue
  - Winter Technical Rescue
  - Avalanche Rescue
  - Wilderness Search
- The only nationally accredited mountain rescue team in Colorado with memoranda of understanding to provide search and rescue services with three different county sheriffs, Jefferson, Gilpin & Clear Creek.
- Nationwide response history
  - 2003 Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery
  - 1997 USAF A-10 Crash Recovery Team
- Team members are leading experts / published authors in:
  - Mountain Rescue Risk Assessment
  - Avalanche Rescue
  - Technical Rope Rescue
  - Helicopter Rescue

## Commitment to Safety:

- No serious injuries to our 700+ members in our 50+ year history.
- Members are prepared for 48 hours of remote wilderness deployment in winter conditions.
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) Field Responders – Physicians, Nurses, Paramedics
- Continual Technical Systems Review: Internal Committee for Technical Rope Systems & Equipment
- Members are involved in National SAR Committees:
  - NIMS Advisory Committee Members
  - Frequent Presenters—International Technical Rescue Symposium
  - NASAR/ATSM



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who should I call if I have a wilderness emergency?

As with any emergency dial 9-1-1 and explain your situation to the county sheriff's office. By Colorado statute, the county sheriff is responsible for all wilderness emergency responses and can be reached by calling 9-1-1.

### Why doesn't the Team charge money for its services?

Because a delay in calling for help increases the risk to subjects and rescuers alike. We don't want anyone to consider postponing a call-for-help because of a financial concern. Delay can cost life, or limb.

### How many people are on the Team?

Alpine Rescue Team currently consists of 50-70 dedicated and highly trained non-paid professional rescue-mountaineers. Each of us has "a real job" and a family. At any time, day or night, members will stop what they are doing and respond immediately to the call for help.

### How many missions does the Team respond-to in a year?

On average, the Team is called to respond to 80 to 100 incidents annually. Not surprisingly, most rescues occur on weekends.

### What kind of training is involved in being a member?

Each member spends approximately 300 hours in training every year, both in the classroom and in the field. Often, more time is spent acquiring additional medical or technical skills. Members donate their time, money, and transportation and purchase their own personal equipment, which often exceeds \$2,000 per year.

### How does the Team get called-out?

Team members carry digital text-message pagers, essentially connecting them to any sheriff's department in the state.

### How is the Team funded?

Alpine Rescue Team is funded largely by private donations and grants. Some direct expenses are reimbursed by the Sheriff's Department and the Colorado-SAR Fund (through the purchase of a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Card, a fishing or hunting license, or a boat, ORV or snowmobile registration). Portions of those fees are used to reimburse rescue teams like Alpine for repairs, equipment and specialized training.

### How can I donate to the Team?

Alpine gratefully accepts cash donations. You can send us your donation or go to our web site at [www.alpinerescueteam.org](http://www.alpinerescueteam.org) to learn more.

**Saving Lives Through Rescue and Mountain Safety Education**

**We're Ready, 24/7**

**Media Contact Information:**  
Steve Wilson 303.201-2470  
Bill Barwick 303.758-4454

A Fully Accredited Member  
of the Mountain Rescue  
Association Since 1962.

