



# MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 880868, San Diego, CA 92168-0868

International Commission of Alpine Rescue (ICAR)  
Executive Board

August 24, 2018

Dear distinguished members of the ICAR Executive Board:

Representing the 3,000 rescue mountaineers and 100+ member teams of the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA), I write today with our enthusiastic endorsement for Charley Shimanski as President of the ICAR Air Rescue Commission.

A Past President of the MRA and 30-year rescue mountaineer, Charley is a recognized leader in helicopter rescue in the USA. He has been the MRA's Education Director for over a decade, and he is the author of the MRA's two helicopter training manuals, which include an online Learning Management System and certificate program, now required by many rescue teams throughout North America.

Charley teaches helicopter rescue operations worldwide, and has participated in trainings, planning, and field operations with rescue teams and HEMS providers throughout North America.

Charley is the Mountain Rescue Program Coordinator for Flight For Life Colorado, the very first Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) program in the United States. He is author of the Flight For Life training guidebook, and he regularly works with HEMS providers nationwide.

More important than his helicopter rescue expertise, Charley is a proven leader, having served as the Senior Vice President for Disaster Services for the American Red Cross; leading its response to major disasters such as Hurricane Sandy. Charley also led the MRA through its most recent Strategic Planning Session with great vision.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. In the meantime, we wholeheartedly support his candidacy for this important role with ICAR.

Sincerely,

Art Fortini  
MRA President

# Charles Stuart Shimanski

EVERGREEN, COLORADO 80439, USA

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## Appointments and Awards

### **PRESIDENT; MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION – USA (MRA)**

2008–2010

### **EDUCATION DIRECTOR; MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION – USA (MRA)**

1996-present

Education Director of the national association of 2,000 volunteer search and rescue professionals representing 100 accredited search and rescue teams. Recognized expert and author on the topics of helicopter rescue and emergency response risk management.

### **INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ALPINE RESCUE (ICAR)**

Mountain Rescue Association (USA) delegate to Air Rescue Commission

### **WARREN BOWMAN AWARD – WILDERNESS MEDICAL SOCIETY (USA)**

For lifetime achievement in the field of mountain rescue; the Society's the highest non-physician award.

## International Speaking Engagements

### **“INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ALPINE RESCUE (ICAR) 2017 CONGRESS” – SOLDEU, ANDORRA**

2017 General Session; *“Helicopter Support for Big Wall Rescues”*

### **“INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ALPINE RESCUE (ICAR) 2016 CONGRESS” – BOROVIETS, BULGARIA**

2016 General Session; *“Rope vs. Rotor”*

### **“SEARCH AND RESCUE EUROPE 2010 CONFERENCE” – ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND**

2010 International Conference; *“Accidents in U.S. Helicopter Operations”*

### **“RESCUE 2010 CONFERENCE” – REYKJAVIK, ICELAND**

2010 International Conference; *“Helicopter Rescue in the USA”* and *“Situational Awareness in Rescue Operations”*

### **“SEARCH AND RESCUE 2009 CONFERENCE” (SHEPARD GROUP) – WASHINGTON, DC**

2009 International Conference; *“Accidents in U.S. Helicopter Operations”*

### **“SAR-SCENE 2008 CONFERENCE” – VICTORIA, BC, CANADA**

2008 International Conference; *“Accidents in Helicopter Rescues”*

### **“RESCUE 2008 CONFERENCE” – REYKJAVIK, ICELAND**

2008 International Conference; *“Helicopter Rescue in the USA”* and *“Risks in Rescue Operations”*

### **“RESCUE 2006 CONFERENCE” – REYKJAVIK, ICELAND**

2006 International Conference; *“Accidents in Rescue Operations”* and *“Situational Awareness in Rescue”*

### **“INTERNATIONAL HELICOPTER SAFETY SYMPOSIUM” – MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA**

2005 Symposium; *“Helicopter Accidents in U.S. Mountain Rescue Operations”*

### **CANADIAN AIR FORCE SPECIAL FORCES – CANMORE, ALBERTA, CANADA**

2003 National Rescue School for Special Forces; *“Risks in Mountain Rescue Operations,” “Avalanche Rescue Operations,”* and *“Helicopter Landing Zones in Technical Terrain”*  
Field session training with pilots/flight crews on remote landing zones on high ridges

# USA Speaking Engagements

## INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL RESCUE SYMPOSIUM

- 2017 Symposium; *"When Angels Fall; Accidents in Helicopter Rescue Operations"*
- 2009 Symposium; *"Charge for Rescue – Good Idea?"* Evening Keynote Presentation
- 2007 Symposium; *"High Tech Tools in Search and Rescue"*
- 2005 Symposium; *"Situational Awareness in Rescue Operations"* – Winner "Best Presentation" award
- 2002 Symposium; *"Risks in Mountain Rescue Operations"* – Winner "Best Presentation" award
- 2001 Symposium; *"Accidents in Mountain Rescue Operations"*

## MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION – USA (MRA)

- 2017 Conference; *"When Angels Fall - Accidents in Helicopter Rescue Operations"*
- 2016 Conference; *"When Angels Fall - Accidents in Helicopter Rescue Operations"* and *"Situational Awareness in Search and Rescue Operations"*
- 2015 Conference; *"Accidents in Helicopter Rescue Operations"*
- 2008 Conference; *"High Tech Tools in Search and Rescue"* and *"Helicopter Hoist Rescue Operations"*
- 2007 Conference; *"High Tech Tools in Search and Rescue"*
- 2004 Conference; *"Risks in Rescue Operations," "Situational Awareness"* and *"Helicopters in Rescue Operations"*
- 2002 Conference; *"Avalanche Search Scenarios"* and *"55 Years of Helicopter Rescues in the National Parks"*
- 2001 Conference; *"Accidents in Mountain Rescue Operations"*

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE – USA (NASAR)

- 2004 Conference; *"Situational Awareness in Rescue Operations"*
- 2003 Conference; *"Risks in Mountain Rescue Operations"* and *"Helicopters in Mountain Rescue Operations"*
- 1999 Conference; *"SAR Cost Recovery Issues"* – Panel moderator with U.S. Coast Guard, National Park Service
- 1999 North American Technical Rescue Symposium; *"Risks in Mountain Rescue Operations"*

## JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE SERVICES "EMS TODAY" CONFERENCE; ORLANDO, FL

- "Risks in Rescue"* and *"Who Pays – A Study of Rescue Cost Recovery"*

## WILDERNESS MEDICAL SOCIETY

- 2009 Conference; *"Situational Awareness in Disaster Response"* and *"Disaster Response Vehicles"*
- 2005 Conference; *"Accidents in Mountain Rescue Operations,"* and *"Improvised Rescue Techniques"*
- 2004 Conference; *"Accidents in Mountain Rescue Operations," "Helicopters in Mountain Rescue,"* and *"Med-Evac Helicopters in Rescue"* field demonstration with Flight For Life Helicopter
- 2002 Conference; *"Mountain Search and Rescue,"* and *"Helicopters in Mountain Rescue"*
- 2001 Conference; *"Epidemiology of Mountain Accidents," "Avalanche!!,"* and *"Avalanche Rescue Workshop"*
- 2000 Conference; *"Epidemiology of Mountain Accidents," "Helicopter Evacuations of the Injured Patient,"* and *"Avalanche Rescue"* All-Day Workshop
- 1997 Winter Sports and Expedition Medicine Conference; *"Trends in Mountaineering Accidents,"* and *"Helicopters in Wilderness Rescue Operations"*
- 1996 Winter Sports and Expedition Medicine Conference; *"Avalanche Rescue"* All-Day Workshop

## COLORADO SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) CONFERENCE

- 2006 Search and Rescue Academy; *"Helicopters in Search and Rescue Operations"* including field demonstration with Colorado Air National Guard
- 2004 Search and Rescue Academy; *"Avalanche Rescue Operations," "Helicopters in Avalanche Rescue Operations,"* including field demonstration with Colorado Air National Guard and *"Avalanche Rescue Scenarios"*
- 1988 to 2002, Breckenridge Avalanche Rescue School; *"Avalanche Rescue Operations," "Helicopters in Avalanche Rescue Operations,"* and *"Avalanche Rescue Scenarios"*

# Flight For Life

## MOUNTAIN RESCUE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

*Flight For Life Colorado* is a helicopter emergency medical service (HEMS) program that provides critical care transport with five AS350-B3 (H125) helicopters that assist search and rescue agencies throughout Colorado with rescue capability, aerial search support, and an Avalanche Deployment Program.

- Volunteer co-author and Editor; *Mountain Rescue Operations* training manual,
- Assists the *Flight For Life* Safety Committee on matters pertaining to mountain rescue operations,
- Liaison to individual mountain rescue teams in areas served by *Flight For Life*,
- Liaison to the Colorado Search and Rescue Board and its members on matters related to mountain helicopter training and operations,
- Assists in development of policies and protocols, and
- Former volunteer Emergency Medical Technician medical crewmember

## National Helicopter Training Manuals

### TECHNICAL TRAINING MANUALS AUTHORED FOR MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION (USA)

[Helicopters in Search and Rescue – Basic Level](#)

[Helicopters in Search and Rescue – Intermediate Level](#)

[Risks in Mountain Rescue](#)

[Situational Awareness in Mountain Rescue](#)

[Accidents in Mountain Rescue Operations](#)

### ONLINE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS AUTHORED FOR MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION (USA)

[Helicopters in Search and Rescue – Basic Level](#)

- Meets Washington State Office of Emergency Management requirements for rescuers operating in state helicopter resources.

## Publications

### “ADVANCED RESCUE TECHNOLOGY” MAGAZINE

“Cold Weather SAR Operations” - January 2005 (Cover Story)

“Risks in Mountain Rescue Operations” – December 2002

### “WILDERNESS MEDICAL LETTER” – JOURNAL OF THE WILDERNESS MEDICAL SOCIETY

“Search and Rescue for Outdoor Leaders” – Fall 2001 (Cover story)

“Helicopter Evacuation of the Injured Patient” – Summer and Fall 2000 (Cover story)

“Risks in Mountain Rescue Operations” – Winter 1998)

### “RESPONSE” – JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE

“Trends in Mountaineering Accidents” – Winter 1999

“Risks in Mountaineering Accidents” – Fall 1998

### “RESCUE FORUM” – JOURNAL OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

“Rescue Cost Recovery” – Fall 2000 (Cover Story)

“The FLIR Infrared Thermal Imaging System” – Autumn/Winter 1991

## Media Appearances

National spokesperson with appearances on *BBC*, *CCTV (China)*, *NBC Nightly News*, *CBS This Morning*, *Good Morning America*, *FOX*, *MSNBC*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, and *Los Angeles Times*, and magazines including *People*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Men’s Journal*, and *National Geographic Explorer*.