**Recording Rescuer Fatalities**

**20191022-MED Report Form**

**Introduction**

Thank you for downloading this form. The form is to report a rescuer’s death to ICAR. The reporting person (the sender) can be a close relative of the rescuer or a representative of a mountain rescue team or ICAR Member Organisation.

First and most importantly, ICAR appreciates that reporting a rescuer’s death is an emotional time. Please take your time and do the form when you feel it is appropriate. We want to understand what has happened. We hope this will help identify preventable causes and hence benefit the safety of future missions. To enable us to do this we need to capture all deaths in mountain rescue. So even the briefest of a report is valuable to us. We will analyse the information you provide in a sensitive and an anonymous way. The latter may be impossible in the internet era as a rescuer death is rare and frequently newsworthy. We will not criticise any rescuer or team. We undertake to inform you of our analysis and give you an opportunity to comment. We do not want to duplicate the work of national/regional bodies so please enclose, or signpost us to, any such information that can be shared. You may feel unable to provide detail of a rescuer’s death if legal processes have not been completed. It may be appropriate to provide us with a brief report of the publicly available information in the first instance, and then forward the details and outcomes when you are free to do so.

All data is held by ICAR and is subject to ICAR’s privacy and data protection policies. These are available on the ICAR website (ICAR Privacy Policy). See:

<http://www.alpine-rescue.org/xCMS5/WebObjects/nexus5.woa/wa/icar?menuid=1094&rubricid=344&articleid=10382>

Additionally, we wish to create a public record - a ‘Line of Duty’ list available to the general public to honour those that had their lives shortened by their service to mountain rescue. This is optional and we will respect your wish if you do not want this.

Before starting the form please read the ‘Help with the Form and Definitions’ section (page 5) and if you have any queries please email them to [mountain.medicine@alpine-rescue.org](mailto:mountain.medicine@alpine-rescue.org). The form can be completed in any language but English is preferred. The completed form (along with any attachments) should be sent to [mountain.medicine@alpine-rescue.org](mailto:mountain.medicine@alpine-rescue.org). Please see the ‘Next steps’ section (page 5) if you have to protect the electronic transmission of sensitive data as to how this can achieved. On receiving a form, we will acknowledge this with the sender and outline what is happening with the data.

We really appreciate your help. Thank you.

Franz Stämpfli John Ellerton

ICAR President Project Lead, ICAR Medcom

*Information Requested*

**General:**

* Full name of the deceased person: txt
* Team that the person was associated with: txt
* Is the team an ‘ICAR member team’:
  + Yes/No

If Yes, which ICAR Member Organisation?

* + txt
* Date of death:
  + Day:month:year
* Age at death:
  + xx years
* Gender:
  + Male/Female/undisclosed
* How many years had the person been involved in mountain/ski rescue?
  + xx years
* The best description of the role of the person in the team: txt
* Was the person a:
  + Helicopter-based rescuer/Terrestrial-based rescuer/Cave rescuer/ Other – txt

and

* + Paid a salary-part of the person’s main job/Unpaid Volunteer
* What qualifications or training had the person acquired?
  + Please name the qualification(s) or describe the training: txt
  + Would this be:
    - basic/standard level or advanced/expert level?
  + Did the training cover:
    - Technical rescue: yes/no/not known
    - 1st Aid/Medical care: yes/no/not known
    - Helicopter operations: yes/no/not known

**For deaths related to a specific mission**

* Country in which the incident occurred: txt
* Region: txt
* Type of mission:
  + Please describe the main purpose of the mission: txt
  + Which is the best description for the mission?
    - Search/rescue/body recovery/animal rescue/training/fund raising/publicity/other - txt

and

* + Was the mission:
    - Helicopter based/ Terrestrial or Cave based/ Both
* Time of Day of the incident occurred:
  + 24hr clock(local time)
* Was it dark or light at the time of the rescuer’s death:
  + txt
* Please describe the weather around the time of the incident:
  + txt
* Where any objective environmental dangers recognised?
  + yes/no
  + Which ones and at what stage of the mission? txt
* Approximate altitude of the incident:
  + xxxx metres above sea level
* What were the circumstances that lead to the death of the rescuer:
  + txt
* How did the death affect the original mission? For example, a change in evacuation or change in approach to scene?
  + txt
* How did the death affect the family and other rescuers?
  + txt
* What was the mechanism that lead to the death: txt
* What is the best description of the cause of the death:
  + Helicopter crash?/Rock fall?/Person fell?/Drowning?/Avalanche?/Weather related (ie Lightning)?/Medical illness?/Personal travel to or from the mission?/Suicide related to mountain rescue work.
* For rescuer’s death from a medical illness, what was the illness?
  + Txt
* Was this confirmed by Forensic examination?
  + yes/no/not known
* Was this illness known before the mission?
  + yes/no/not known
* Are there any official documents? For example, coroner or legal reports. Please list here and send as attachments if you can.
  + txt
* Have any identified potential preventable causes or changes in procedure for future missions?
  + txt

and

* + Would the cause be classed as: Equipment failure/Environmental/Human factor/Combination of above

**For a rescuer’s death from suicide:**

* How important was their mountain/ski rescue experience in their suicide: Most important factor/Significant factor/Probably contributed/Possibly contributed/Not a factor?
* Had the person a known mental illness before they died?
  + Yes/No/Not known
  + Was it: Depression/Alcohol or Substance abuse/Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)/Other (txt)

**Sender’s Information:**

* Your name: txt
* Your relationship with the deceased: txt
* Do you have legal authority to act on behalf of the deceased?
  + Yes/No
* Your contact email: txt
* Are you responding on behalf of the team?
  + Yes/No

If Yes:

* + - Are the next of kin aware that the information has been provided?
      * Yes/No
    - Have the next of kin/deceased executor(s) consented to the information being provided and used in the analysis process?
      * Yes/No
    - Have the next of kin consented to the information being provided and published on a publicly accessible ‘Line of Duty’ web page?
      * Yes/No

If No:

* + - Is the team/ICAR Member aware that the information has been provided?
      * Yes/No
    - If No:
      * Can we contact the team/ICAR Member directly?
      * Yes/No

**Optional information for the ‘Line of Duty’ web page:**

* Photo of deceased rescuer:
* Short biography:
* Web links to organisation, etc:

**Is there anything else you would like to tell us?**

* + txt

**Next steps**

Please email the form and any attachments to [mountain.medicine@alpine-rescue.org](mailto:mountain.medicine@alpine-rescue.org). If you wish, please password-protect the form and send the password separately to [johnellerton01@icloud.com](mailto:johnellerton01@icloud.com)). We will acknowledge receipt.

Your report will be distributed to the Analysis panel and added to our database.

At some time in the future, ICAR will instruct a Report group to write a summary of the findings. This will have an educational objective.

We expect that the first report will be in 3-5 years time. If you or ICAR think there is an urgent matter an anonymous news item will be produced, agreed with you, and circulated within ICAR.

In parallel with the analysis, a ‘Line of Duty’ page will be prepared, agreed with you and then released. We expect that this would be completed within xx months of the rescuer’s death.

**Withdrawal of sender’s permission**

The sender can withdraw information from the process at any stage. This would result in removal of all data from the database and only the fact of a rescuer death (excluded from analysis) would remain.

**Help with the Form and Definitions**

Rescuer – a person who is a member or assisting a Mountain, Cave/Canyon or Ski Patrol Team.

Mountain Rescue Team (MRT) – An organised mountain, cave/canyon or ski slope rescue team that has a recognised activation process, and a formal structure and training programme.

ICAR member team – Either directly an ICAR Member Organisation or allied to ICAR by a formal association with an ICAR Member Organisation.

Fatality – a death of a rescuer who died during a mountain rescue activity or as a result of an event which occurred during a mountain rescue activity. This would include: all deaths occurring on a mission; deaths occurring as a probable consequence of physical injury that had occurred during a mountain rescue activity; and deaths where probable psychological harm from the rescuer’s mountain rescue activity lead to the rescuer’s (probable) suicide.

Mountain Rescue Activity – includes all official mountain rescue team missions even if that incident was not on a mountain. The mission includes travel to and from the mission from the rescuer’s home/work in the personal vehicle. Official training, preventative work and fund raising activity are included. A rescuer responding to a mountain incident that normally would result in a mountain rescue team mission is included.

Unpaid Volunteer – A unpaid volunteer may receive payment for travel expenses and training or an honorarium/retainer but the team activity is not the person’s main job

Qualifications or Training – qualifications are nationally accredited certificates conferring status to a person as a recognised practitioner of a profession or activity. For example, a pilot, an emergency doctor, a paramedic, a mountain guide.

The level of qualification or training is basic/standard level if it is a minimum requirement to participate in rescue activity; an advanced/expert level is a higher level incorporating experience, status, specialisms above the basic level.

Type of mission – A Helicopter based mission is where all rescuers are all transported by helicopter. Terrestrial or Cave missions are ones that do not involve a helicopter. ‘Both’ means that the mission had a terrestrial phase that involved more than the normal HEMS crew.

Objective environmental dangers – examples would be avalanche/lightning/flooding, particularly if these were more apparent than a ‘normal’ rescue. Were these recognised during the planning of the mission, during the mission, or after the event?

Sender of information – Any member of the deceased rescuer’s mountain rescue team or the deceased rescuer’s ICAR Member organisation. Any first degree relative of the deceased mountain rescuer family. (Wife, parents, brother, sisters) or the executors of the rescuer’s estate.

Data holder and server – ICAR

Data processor – the Analysis Panel

Responsible person – a person within the ICAR Board that chairs and coordinates the work on behalf of ICAR. They are responsible to the Board and the Assembly of Delegates. Initially it is envisaged this will be the Medcom President.

Analysis Panel – the project team and any expert person that they feel could provide a specialist input. Persons would be excluded from the panel if they had a connection with the rescuer’s mountain rescue team or at their request.

Report Group – the ICAR Executive Board would form the group. Usually the presidents of the technical commissions would be members along with other persons selected by the Board. Both the responsible person and the ICAR Executive Board must approve any report before it was published.