

Austrian Cave Rescue Service – Salzburg

Österreichischer Höhlenrettungsdienst Salzburg



11th International Cave Rescue Conference of Cave Rescue
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Main Topics

- History
- Financing
- Insurance of the rescue team
- Rescue operations abroad

History

Cave Rescue Services in Federal State Salzburg (Austria)

The cave rescue Salzburg was founded in 1966 within the Salzburg Federation of Cavers. Due to organisational difficulties the cave rescue was founded as own legal entity in 1986. Within the Salzburg Federation of Cavers there is still a rescue group for internal operations.

The legal independent cave rescue, the **Austrian Cave Rescue Service – Salzburg**, was 1989 integrated to the disaster rescue services in Salzburg and 1999 together with mountain and water rescue integrated to the Act of Rescue of the state Salzburg as specific rescue services.

Financing

Until the integration to the Act of Rescue the main financing was done with subventions by town and state Salzburg (voluntary donations on application).

After the integration to the Act of Rescue as accredited rescue service the financing changed as following:

Rescue contribution

There is a rescue contribution, which has to be paid by the state Salzburg and by the communities of Salzburg. This rescue contribution is distributed to the mountain rescue, the water rescue and the cave rescue with a fixed key. Thus the cave rescue can count on a yearly fixed subvention.

Donation system

An additional financing is done by a donation system:

Each person living in Europe has the possibility to become a donator to the Austrian Cave Rescue Service – Salzburg.

By donating minimum €21.- a complimentary insurance for the donator, spouse and family is contracted. Rescue costs up to the amount of €14000.- will be refunded.

(According to the costs-by-cause principle rescue costs are enforceable.)

All rescue services (mountain, water, cave, helicopter) are covered by this insurance.

Sponsoring

With these measures around 2/3 of the yearly budget is covered. The rest is still done with sponsoring by companies and individuals.

Insurance of the rescue team

Following insurance coverage applies to each member of the Cave Rescue Service in case of rescue operations, rescue drills and other activities organised by the Cave Rescue Service Austria:

- Accident insurance (death, disability, salvage expenses, hospital daily allowance)
- Casualty insurance
- Legal protection insurance
- Comprehensive insurance for private automobiles, cost sharing of € 15,- borne by the member

Rescue operations abroad

Basically the Cave Rescue Service Austria – Federal state Salzburg is prepared for operations abroad. We have adequate resources in terms of manpower, material and infrastructure.

Neighbouring countries

Cave rescue services of neighbouring countries can request the Cave Rescue Service Austria, Salzburg directly.

Other countries

For countries, that are not neighbouring countries to Austria following applies:
The affected country has to request help at the Austrian State for example by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Austrian state respective the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs forwards the request to the concerned rescue service.

Preconditions, which are met by the Austrian Cave Rescue Service – Salzburg:
The rescue service has to be logged in to the rescue database of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs as operational unit for operations abroad.

For that the rescue service has to have

- personal, capable of operating abroad, that means minimum the management staff is speaking English,
- material and infrastructure to operate independently – at least for a certain period - on the rescue location
- a certain response time before starting an operation abroad for example 6 hours; that means that the rescue team has an emergency equipment already packed at home.

These measures are put into place to ensure

- for the Austrian State a short response time by the rescue team in case of a rescue request
- for the rescue team the organised transport to and from the rescue operation
- and the financial security that the costs are borne by the Austrian State

We hope that also with our contribution to this conference together we can proceed with the development of the cave rescue services all over Europe.

Do not hesitate to contact us for any questions or further discussions.

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