

<p>1</p>	<p>Overview video of cas bag testing</p> <p>The BCRC was formed in 1968</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has grown to some 16 member teams• Cover England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland• CRO – formed 1935, MRO 1936 <p>All cave rescue in UK is voluntary</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Role of the BCRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ‘representative’ not governing• To liase with other bodies• Government – recently formed UKSAR• Mountain Rescue• British Caving• Dealing with problems often not seen outside <p>Handling contacts with press</p> <p>Handling requests from Television production companies</p>

<p>3</p>	<p>Try to take a long term view</p> <p>At recent meeting we considered development of new kit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The BCRC Casualty Bag is nearing production – more later• The HEYPhone cave radio development• Stretchers
<p>4</p>	<p>Providing information to teams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BCRC Information CD <p>Contains administrative documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contains Briefing Notes – eg Decompression, Foul Air• Articles <p>Annual Incident reports</p> <p>National Contact List – callout information.</p>

<p>5</p>	<p>Web site presence at caverescue.org.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliberately kept it simple• Easier to update• Can be managed by less technical persons• Easier to find way around• Links to member teams
<p>6</p>	<p>We will now move onto the more interesting areas</p> <p>Cavers requiring assistance will call 999</p> <p>Emergency services number for police, fire and ambulance</p> <p>But also used for Coast Guard, Mountain and Cave Rescue</p> <p>(advert by the AA – fourth emergency service)</p> <p>The Police have a statutory responsibility for rescue from remote places</p> <p>Just how they handle such requests varies where the call is made</p>

7

In some authority areas a ‘memorandum of understanding’ has been reached where the Fire Service (normally) takes the lead role and will callout the cave rescue team.

On a point of interest here, I am told that the fire service will not leave any rope used to get them into the cave...

... the Health and Safety at Work impinges – affects statutory services but no voluntary teams.

But team leaders still have a duty of care.

8

Problems when calls made outside ‘normal’ caving areas

- the people in the 999 control room have no concept of cave (and mountain) rescue so will feed to either the fire service or the coastguard.

When a rescue is initiated through the police, then the insurance cover will start – Public Liability and Personal Accident

The police will make contact with the cave rescue team

This will again vary from team to team

9

All constabularies have one or more cave rescue teams allocated

Hopefully at the maps.

Team sizes and number of callouts

CRO has some 60 front line members plus 30 support – carries out about 10 rescues per year – back in 70s and 80s was 15 per year and more

Derby CRO quotes some 170 members – but is ‘club’ based – carries out between 2 and 8 rescues per year

West Brecon – 155 members – club – 2 to 8 per year

Some teams have close relationship to the local MR teams – and cross-membership

10

Teams particularly in the Yorkshire Dales take on a dual role – offering a mountain rescue service in addition to cave rescue.

At the site, the normal procedure is for the team controller or warden to take control of the operation.

This is particularly so in the ‘busier areas’ where the police are aware of the team and will have sufficient confidence to let them ‘get on with it’.

In those areas, the police will often not be present unless there is a serious injury or a fatality.

<p>11</p>	<p>Types of caves in the different areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yorkshire – max 200 metres deep – multi pitch – damp – often very wet• Derbyshire – some deep shafts – muddy – sometimes very wet• South Wales – large caves on multiple levels – the main streamways can be very wet – possibility of rescues taking several days <p>Lancaster Easegill in the Dales is some 50 km –</p> <p>OFD and Aggie/Daren again > 50 km – multi day rescues</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Types of rescues – usual kinds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Falls and slips• Flooding• Lost• Self marooning• Physically stuck•• Cave diving <p>And other types</p> <p>Injuries – morphine privilege</p>

<p>13</p>	<p>Public assistance role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helping casualties in show caves and other locations where a member of the public is in distress.• Sometimes difficult to distinguish ‘members of public’ and someone actually exploring underground – cite last years incident with the candles• Do get calls for other matters – the spent shell that Gwent dealt with and the Derby bomb callout
<p>14</p>	<p>Today where a fatality occurs we have ‘scene of crime’ to deal with.</p> <p>In the Annual Incident Report we list all calls made through the 999 system where there has been some level of team deployment. What is not shown is those calls not resulting in action where the controllers or wardens have provided guidance to the authorities but no action on behalf of the team has taken place.</p>

