

TECHNICAL RESCUE

NEWSLETTER

46



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ISSUE 46 **Sampler**

For those that don't subscribe to Technical Rescue magazine here's what you're missing in issue 46:



Our Featured Service this issue is Icelandic SAR - an umbrella organisation for 100 SAR teams based all around Iceland dealing with extremes of weather and geography with innovative modifications and plain old hard work. Ranging from 4WDs, snowmobiles and Hagland snowcats to offshore Marine Rescue this organisation boasts an impressive array of equipment and personnel for an island with a population of only 281,000.



Left: TRm US Editor Jim Segerstrom begins a 2-parter on Boat and Boat Operations looking here at the range of craft available to rescuers

Right: Roger Umney and Lori Pennington of Idaho SAR and Idaho State University discuss the requirement for keeping your training paperwork and presentations relevant and effective.



Left: Continuing our ongoing knife fetish we review the first knife produced by multi-tool giant Leatherman. Also reviewed is the Hardigge Eurocase - a larger transport and storage option for USAR.



Right: Another detailed incident report in our Trauma series from Dr Stewart Boyd and colleagues in South Africa looks at a heavy goods vehicle that careened off an elevated section of the freeway.



Left: Reed Thorne begins a two-part article on High Directionals examining where and why such a system should be considered in Rope Rescue.

Right: Our Market Guide to Hydraulic Combi-Tools details all the spec from all the main players in the extrication world.



ISSUE 47 **Sampler**

Going to print at the end of July
Subscribe via the website: www.t-rescue.com..... shopping.....subscription



Electric/battery powered tools are the subject of this issue's EXTRICATION Market Guide. Cutters, spreader, combis and re-bar cutters from the world's leading manufacturers provide a highly mobile and lighter-weight alternative to hose-fed hydraulics. Mostly seen as simply a first response tool (a job for which these tools are well suited) they are in fact often just as rescue-capable as their larger and heavier hose-fed brethren. No set-up times, transportable and single person operating top the advantages of electric tools.



Our Featured Team this issue is Yosemite Search & Rescue in California. Home of the most awesome and readily accessible big wall climbs in the world. Yosemite National Park is a magnet for tourists and thrill seekers alike but these are some of the most skilled thrill seekers in the rock-climbing world and when things go wrong here, your ass is literally hanging in the breeze. We look at the work, equipment, environment and incidents of this prominent Rescue Team.



Left: A return for our PHOTO GALLERY see's a series on the US Coastguard in action. Aquatic Rescue is dealt with in the second part of Jim Segerstrom's Boat Techniques.

Right: Gear Reviews this issue include Rope Wise Bucket-Bag from Australia, The new 1/2" version of the Crossline used in a rope rescue role and the TNT Telescopic stabilisation struts. Rope Rescue articles are also provided by Reed Thorne with 2nd part of his High Directionals piece and a look at the US National Park Service's High Angle Rescue Training.

Left: Petzl Tikka XP ATEX provides mini-headtorches for those demanding intrinsic safety.

Right: Not one but two Back-to-Back articles in this issue (if we can fit them both in!!) One on Rescue knives, most of which incorporate a glass 'punch' and one continuing our look at waterproof cases - this time the biggies!



REVIEWS IN THE PIPELINE:

When we started *Technical Rescue* magazine we thought that a product review could simply be achieved by handing over an item to a fire crew or rescue team and awaiting comments. It took over a year to realise that reviews conducted by guest reviewers were always positive even when we knew that there were some obvious shortcomings in relation to similar products. After many years of using & supplying rope access and rescue equipment some of us had already acquired a healthy 'equipment scepticism' that caused us to size up a new product comparatively. This was how we needed to approach all reviews but it would be another five years (mid-1990's) before we considered ourselves well enough versed in the performances of equipment across most technical rescue disciplines since we, like all teams, were loyal to the kit we new best. Other equipment-led magazines from the mass-market sectors like trail walking and mountain-biking used professional reviewers who did nothing but test equipment day-in, day-out and this was how we ended up approaching all reviews. We still put equipment with a range of relevant teams or services to get some alternative viewpoints but the main reviews are always undertaken with a comparative eye on how the kit



measures up to the opposition and how it performs close to or outside of its intended operational envelope. A minority of manufacturers dislike this aspect of our review but it's always been our experience that if a tool can be abused, it will be!!

Water rescue continues to occupy a lot of our time and in tandem with the Yak products mentioned in the last newsletter we are now busy abusing Predator Helmets - both the cut-away and full head versions. From Cascade Designs we have a range of drybags that have dominated the market for many years. We have the Pro-Pack, a rucksack version of an entirely waterproof roll-top bag and it's smaller brethren the Duffel and See Bags. Cascade also have smaller electronics style bags with quick-sealing closures that are supposed to be entirely submersible - we shall see!



From Magellan the Roadmaster 760 GPS navigation system continues to see use worldwide but we've had a few problems with the system locking out at inopportune times and for an £800. unit this seems a bit temperamental! It wavers between the brilliantly accurate (and lifesaving!) and the temperamentally useless though, to be fair this is only ever a short term/temporary glitch. We'll be checking with the manufacturer and holding the review over until issue 48.

The Milwaukee Hatchet reciprocating saw has proved to be a versatile but underpowered beastie for extrication. The 24v has been uni-



versally favoured. It is certainly the case that had we reviewed the Hatchet by itself without direct comparison with its larger cousin most comments would have been very favourable. But this is precisely why we review almost all products comparatively. Reciprocating saws for instance have to measure up against the Makita 24v and DeWalt 24v & 18v that we are familiar with,



From Gerber we have 2 multi-tools, a rescue knife and a small LED torch. The Multitools represent both ends of their price spectrum with the Chinese made Suspension at the bottom and with which we are very impressed and the large Recoil at the top of the price list.



To compliment the Magnum boots we began reviewing last month we have Goliath's USAR oriented GTX black boot also with a 'rapid' zipper but this time more conventionally mounted on the front. These have a prominent steel toe cap and are aesthetically (ergonomically!?) less agreeable than the Magnum but are faring well in the terms



of comfort and resilience. They have a GoreTex lining and shock-absorbing sole. Black boots will be looked at in issue 48 now (instead of the originally intended #47).

On the extrication/USAR front we are looking at TNT's new stabilisation struts. There are a whole load of struts available

now so this is either a bold and confident move or destined to struggle in the face of too many competitors but the quality is unquestionable so this should prove to be some great kit.

Crossline's 1/2" REACH, a larger version of the excellent water rescue 'grapple' is now being used in a rope rescue role to capture active or trailing ropes, tests so far have been very good if not a little 'specialised'. We've had to be meticulous about lubricating the rope retaining clip after water-use as their free-movement is vital to proper function.



In a radical departure from the virtual monopoly of US products (aside from the boots) we are putting some Australian rope bags and accessory packs through their paces. Ropewise are an access-oriented company but they have some great ideas that cross-over extremely well to rescue. Their bucket bag and rocket pouch will be featured in issue 47.

Slightly more expensive from the extrication/USAR field we're reviewing the CP100 powerpack from Lucas allied with their small combi-tool (though the unit will power any hydraulic tool in their range). We're very big fans of small, light, transportable equipment for technical rescue and this elegant portable powerpack should prove an excellent option for all kinds of rapid response, airborne and waterborne teams and agencies.



Other stuff pending or that we're trying to blag: Inflatable Raft/Stretchers, new version of Petzl ID, SmartBVM, drysuits and water rescue boots. If you'd like to submit a product or suggest a Back to Back, Review or Market Guide contact us at info@t-rescue.com or ade6@aol.com



GARY CROSS is TRm's snr UK researcher and recently completed a 6-week Winston Churchill Fellowship trip to the USA Gary got the chance to meet and work with some of the leading authority's & organizations in swiftwater rescue, pwc's helicopter & special ops including the mother of swiftwater rescue Nancy Rigg Gary was assisted by such notables as Jim Segerstrom, Slim Ray; Charley Hurley at Ca OES; Casey Ping, Ken Larson, Glenn Anderson & Corey Ricketson at Austin-Travis Co. EMS; Larry Dickson at LA Co Lifeguards, Larry Collins and Bryan Wells at LA Co Fire Dept, Jack Wise at LA City Fire Dept; Matt Knieran & Sean Hidalgo at Stockton Fire Dept, Shawn Alladio at K38 Rescue & Nancy Rigg, Tom Neville at Sacramento Fire Dept, Fred Links of Sacramento Sherrifs Dept, Harry Evans at Austin Fire dept. and the Yosemite SAR Team. Thanks guys.



Who's Who at TRm?



Congratulations to TRU Technician, RNLI Cox and Technical Rescue magazine researcher Chris Walker who has been appointed National RNLI Instructor at their spectacular new Base and training HQ in Poole, Dorset, England. Chris currently teaches Inshore Rescue Boat techniques (D&E class, Atlantic 25 & 75) moving on to Jetdrives, Jet Skis and Hovercraft.



RESCUE ICELAND 2006

An international Search and Rescue conference
 Since 1990 ICE-SAR, Icelandic Association for Search and Rescue, has hosted a Rescue conference called "Björgun" ("Rescue"). Through the years the conference has developed and grown into a full blown SAR conference and now it is time to go international.
Built on experience

There are 101 volunteer rescue teams in Iceland doing every kind of rescue work on sea and land in urban and wilderness environment. In a hostile nature these rescue teams have built up a lot of experience and it is time to share it with the global rescue community. Make the most of it...

Rescue 2006 will be held October 20.-22. 2006.

Participant will be able to attend pre conference courses at various locations in Iceland before the conference starts. That way you can make the most out of your visit to Iceland.



Rescue 2006.

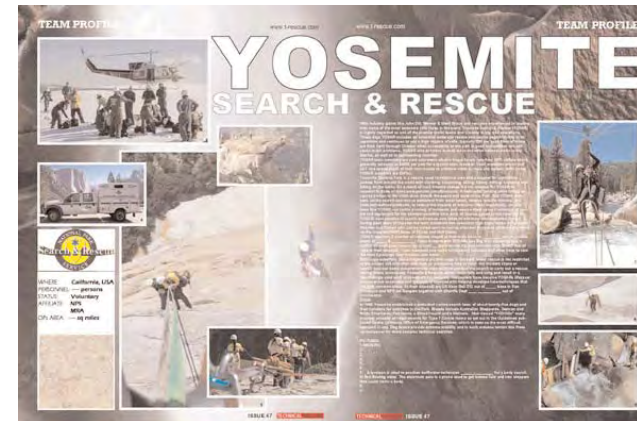
Visit Iceland - network with Icelandic rescuers - get a new perspective!

www.icesar.com

TEAM PROFILES

Technical Rescue magazine has begun a new emphasis on the work, equipment, incidents and techniques of Teams from around the world. We introduced this with issue 46's 12 page article on SAR Iceland an umbrella Search and Rescue organisation for the 100 individual teams spread across Iceland. Our next issue will feature a detailed article on Yosemite SAR in California but later issues will feature Fire Services, Industrial teams, USAR teams, Coastguards, Lifeguards, Medical teams, Police & military.

There are obviously a huge number of teams worldwide and it would take us several centuries to cover even a fraction of the teams and services around. We will therefore also be starting a series of double page spread Team Profiles. The dummy version below shows the format for these arti-



cles. Each Team Profile will include a team photo, key vehicles, team/agency badge or logo, operational area and map, and a selection of photos together with a description of the history, structure and current work of each t-featured team. Although this increases the number of teams and types of teams we can feature in each issue we are still going to be woefully short of space compared to the number of teams who deserve coverage. These pieces will therefore be by invitation as we would have to turn down far more requests than we could deal with. However we are always happy to receive suggestions but don't be too disappointed if it takes a few years to get around to you!!

VEHICLE GALLERY

Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service

	Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service		Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service
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VEHICLES

We've had numerous requests over the years to provide more information on the extraordinary variety of vehicles (trucks, boats, helos and specials) used by world rescue agencies.

We've decided to do this by including two new articles. One is a stand-alone page (or double page spread) focusing on one specific vehicle and

providing enough data and specifications to keep the most ardent spotter happy. It will include details of the power-plant, working environment and equipment and/or crew carried. This will begin in issue 48. The second type of article will be a one-page fleet review detailing the key vehicles in any given agency. The dummy example above shows a UK fire service and 14 of it's key or most unusual/interesting vehicles. This page will also highlight the boats/ships, helicopters, and other powered craft used by rescue services. The first Vehicle Gallery will appear in issue 48.

CHANGE OF COVER DESIGN

Those of you that already subscribe may have noticed a subtle but distinct change of title design on issue 46. We also changed the internal banner pages but weren't overly keen on that particular change so will experiment further in issue 47. The new cover titles will change in colour depending on the cover photo.

UK Technical Symposium 2006

Lyon Equipment is pleased to announce that their 6th annual Technical Symposium will be held on 25th and 26th September 2006. The theme for this year will be "Emergency Response at Height - equipment and systems performance", and there will be lectures and practical demonstrations on this subject. TECHNICAL RESCUE will be demonstrating the latest generation of Rescue Airbags for protection of workers, rescuers and victims at height.



Delegates from emergency services and rescue teams will be particularly welcome. The event is at the Rheged Discovery Centre and Lyon Training Centre in the UK. This is close to the M6 in

Cumbria, Northern England and is timed to coincide with the Mountain Rescue Committee conference which will be held in Lancaster (just 25 miles down the M6) on the 23rd and 24th September.

please contact Paul Witheridge at Lyon Equipment
 Tel: +44 (0)15396 25943
 or see Lyon Website www.lyon.co.uk

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Peli Protector Cases - 26 sizes, watertight, dustproof and crushproof, setting the standard in rugged, portable protection. Foam inserts secure sensitive and valuable equipment so it will stay safe even when the case is knocked around. Peli Cases are NATO coded and feature automatic pressure purge valves, easy-open latches, ergonomic sure-grip handles and padlock protectors.



All Peli products are covered by the legendary "You break it, we replace it" lifetime guarantee.

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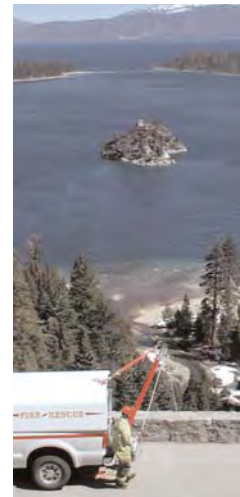


TECHNICAL RESCUE UNIT

After 16 years of rescues and well over a decade as the UK's first and only broad spectrum technical rescue agency it was with some regret that the **Technical Rescue Unit** resigned from Fire Service operations at the beginning of 2006. This was not a decision taken lightly and was due to serious 'political' differences with some senior officers and TRU concerns about the safety of newly introduced rope rescue procedures. Unit personnel have been absorbed into the Fire Service USAR team or have taken up positions with other specialist agencies. The Unit itself is maintaining a skeleton crew to provide rescue for specific risks not adequately catered for and to support it's 'sister' Dockyard Rescue team. However, all full-time duty crews have now been discontinued and 5 of 7 extensively equipped Rescue Response vehicles have been withdrawn from service. With initial sponsorship from the Daily Mail Group and latterly Technical Rescue magazine this Unit was able to operate with an unprecedented level of specialist equipment and to work in hot-spots around the world to enhance and maintain experience and skills. It should be noted that this unique service was provided to the Fire Service completely free of charge. Technical Rescue magazine is disap-

pointed with the downgrading of such an experienced and well equipped Unit but is also pleased to see that the principles of the Unit are being duplicated in Fire Services nationwide and that technical rescue as a discipline has been raised from a 'cult' discipline to the mainstream. Whether or not all of the emerging teams will be able to maintain the necessary skills and equipment in the long term and in the face of relatively few genuine callouts is debatable but it is certainly worth trying. As each county in the UK begins to identify where most of their calls are coming from, specialist rescue teams will probably become more regional with certain counties maintaining a specific skill for the benefit of adjacent counties rather than have to maintain all technical rescue skills in every county. We look forward to a period of rapid development in technical rescue though we should all bear in mind that the number of calls to such incidents will not suddenly increase just because we are better prepared. If anything, more stringent health and safety regulations and development of on-site work rescue teams together with expansion of rescue capabilities within SAR teams, Police and Coastguard has lead to a general decline in overall incident numbers for fire services but there will always be a need for special rescue and dedicated rescue teams in one guise or another.

ROPE RESCUE from AMKUS



AMKUS Rescue Systems (Downers Grove, IL USA) is proud to introduce their ROPE RESCUE SYSTEM. The advanced design deploys in under two minutes, eliminating pulley systems and load releasing hitches while greatly reducing the number of rescuers needed topside from 8-10 to just two! It is easy to use, requiring less training than traditional rope rescue methods thanks to the incredibly simple design. Unlike other belaying devices, THE AMKUS ROPE RESCUE SYSTEM passes knots with ease. The AMKUS ROPE RESCUE SYSTEM is designed to improve the safety of both rescuer and victim in dangerous high angle rescue operations with a 1,000 lb. working capacity with a 10:1 safety margin and an instant stop / zero shock loading system. It features a precise control which allows the load to be raised or lowered by a fraction of an inch at a time for critical positioning. It also creates a more organized incident scene with fewer elements to contend with and fewer technicians to coordinate.

AMKUS also manufactures a complete line of high performance hydraulic rescue tools and extrication equipment including:

spreaders, cutters, combination tools, rams and power units

For more information, contact: AMKUS Rescue Systems, 2700 Wisconsin Ave. Downers Grove, IL 60515-4226 USA
Phone: 630-515-1800 Fax 630-515-8866
Web : www.amkus.com E-mail experts@amkus.com



MFC Eqpt to be used in UK Water Rescue training

MFC Survival has donated water rescue equipment to Outreach Rescue at Bangor, North Wales. The products will be used on water rescue training courses. The equipment includes a Rapid Response Shelter which does not need continuous inflation. It is to be used to house their equipment onsite and to provide a changing area for personnel during training. Also donated is an All Purpose Inflatable Stretcher. The stretcher is a superior new design from MFC that can be used on land, mud, marsh, open water, ice and snow. A new Water Rescue Sled was also donated, the rescue sled was developed for transferring persons across water or surfaces comprising of mud, snow, water or sand. The Rescue Sled is primarily used in crisis rescues that occur in rivers, flooded urban areas, coastal resorts, mountains and swamps. MFC Survival has supplied equipment to Outreach in addition to the emergency services for a number of years. "Outreach Rescue were extremely helpful in the development of our waterborne rescue sled. Their analysis of its operating use proved invaluable" commented Alex Austin, Design Consultant for MFC Survival Ltd. Tony Griffiths, Director of Outreach Rescue says of MFC Survival's products "MFC Survival equipment has been the subject of extensive field trials with Outreach Rescue training over a number of years. We continue to use their pathways, sleds, stretcher and shelters in numerous applications to maintain product development and can only report the highest levels of performance and durability for MFC products". Outreach has operated a range of incident response and rescue programmes for sixteen years. They are operated in conjunction with the UK Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh and the Centre for Disaster Management, Coventry University. Their clients include numerous private and public sector organisations, emergency services, universities and colleges.



MFC Survival Limited is one of the world's leading designers and manufacturers of specialised safety and survival equipment. With over 40 years of experience, the company is renowned for producing the highest quality product.

For further details please contact: Frances Hilton, Marketing Assistant, MFC Survival Ltd, Tel: +44(0)7717 203812
Email: frances@mfc-survival.com Website: www.mfcsurvival.com



ASTRAL PFD

increases visibility in dark or shaded environments.

•EZ-Reach side adjustments are placed more forward than other PFD's. This makes it much easier to securely adjust an Astral vest.

•Low riding foam keeps the buoyancy out of your way, providing an amazing range of motion. In fact, remove the rescuer's harness and you have a great park and play vest.

Since its inception in 2003, this Rescue vest has become standard equipment for many of the world's top extreme paddlers, whitewater instructors, and swiftwater rescuers. It is packed with features to make river-work much safer.

Features:

- The Simplicity and reliability of a streamlined Pull-Over means no zippers to worry about breaking.
- Quick release rescue belt: Removable 1-1/2" webbing belt and O-Ring designed for towing, anchoring or strong swimming rescues. Read threading details thoroughly!
- Continuous Suspension is designed to let the shoulder straps move up and down with your shoulders while paddling, but without pulling up on the PFD. Reinforcement webbing is sewn throughout the shoulder straps, across your back, and then back to the front of the jacket. This creates a "harness" of strength that will secure around you in the event you are hoisted from your shoulder straps.
- Enhanced Flotection™ is provided in side panels via a thin layer of HDPE. Your ribs and organs will appreciate this.
- Rope ready front pocket with Built in Whistle: Store your rope behind the zippered front pocket.
- Web-Tow Pocket at right side of vest neatly holds our optional WebTow™. This system is safer than most, because it eliminates the slack loop common to other tow systems.
- Integrated Spectra® Safety loop is designed for short, emergency belays and extraction anchor point. It is securely integrated with the primary structure of the device.
- Hydration compatibility-our 1/2Bladder™ fits in the front pocket and our Full Bladder™ fits between the back foam layers.
- Quick Access Knife tab.
- Reflective piping at front and back

Technical Information

- Foam inserts: Super-soft Non-Halogenated (PVC-Free!) Foam in the front is ergonomically shaped by hand. Recyclable P.E foam is used in back and sides for its light weight and impact protection.
- Shell fabric: 500 Denier Cordura® Nylon for abrasion resistance.
- Liner fabric: 200 Denier Nylon for lightweight comfort against your skin or clothing..
- Plastic Hardware: Acetal plastic is incredibly strong for it's weight and will not crack when cold and wet.
- Webbing: We use Nylon webbing because it is strong and flows through hardware best.
- Sizing: (measured in inches at widest torso circumference)
Small/Medium 30-42
Large/Extra Large 42-54
- Buoyancy: 16.5 lbs. (USCG minimum is 15.5 lbs for a recreational Type III PFD)

Suggested Accessories:

Full Bladder™. Our 1.5 Liter hydration bladder fits between the layers of the back of the PFD.
Half Bladder™. Our 1 Liter Hydration bladder fits in or behind the front pocket and can also be used as a dry bag or, when inflated, serve as a buoyancy booster.
Poly Throw™ or Throw Spectra™ This compact throw pouch fits perfectly behind the front pocket and carries 45 feet of 1/4 inch rope.
Web-Toe™. A 6 ft Spectra webbing and paddlebiner tow system that fits perfectly in to the side wing pocket. This system is designed to be comfortably within reach when needed and out of the way when it isn't.

Red or Blue. RRP £129.95

See www.astralbuoyancy.com & www.rig-access.co.uk

NEW VERSION of OVAL CARABINER



Climbing Technology Ltd, a leading Company in the development and manufacturing of personal protective equipment has achieved the unlikely and improved on the design of the humble oval carabiner.

Climbing Technology's new OVAL karabiner has a eye-catching profile that that provides an increased gate opening compared to older models. The 21mm available space is the largest functional gate opening distance in the Oval class providing up to 30% more opening capacity than similar models with the benefit of easier clipping onto safety lines, ropes, lanyards or anchors.

The second plus point is the improved screw locking system which has been modified to enable three complete revolutions of the screw sleeve instead of the traditional 1,8. In simple words, when the karabiner is completely closed, you need 3 revolutions of the screw sleeve before you can operate the gate. This of course improves safety and has been achieved by increasing the screw sleeve length, the helical thread size and modifying the locking bar.

The new OVAL Karabiner has a snag free body/gate interface, this avoids catching on ropes, webbing lanyards or harness loops especially whilst unclipping. The Oval carabiner works extremely well with a pulley wheel for emergency hauling. Spec: 24kN; 10kN; 7kN (major axis; minor axis; open gate) Wt -only 78 gr. alloy screwgate and 82 gr. alloy locking version) EN362-2004-B (Industrial Safety) and EN12275-Type B (Recreational Climbing).

Contact www.climbingtechnology.com



Holmatro® battery-powered hydraulic rescue tools

For rapid intervention and all those remote areas and confined spaces where you could not act before



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2006 Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF SWIFTWATER RESCUE

United States Coast Guard
Integrated Support Command New Orleans,
Louisiana Hurricane Duty Section

- LCDR Daryl P. Schaffer
- CWO3 Carter W. Owens III
- MKCS Gary W. Churchman
- EM1 Dino A. Federico
- IT1 Jeffery D. Antwiler
- DC2 John C. Gohier
- MK2 Dave A. Wruble
- MK2 Anthony G. Parrott
- FS2 Anthony J. Ciurlino
- HS3 Jamison C. King
- ET3 Daniel M. McTeague
- FN Glen D. Willard
- SN Kimberly N. Foster
- SN Chris L. Riley

For performance of duty while serving on the USCG ISC New Orleans Hurricane Duty Section inside New Orleans, including the first surface rescue by a Coast Guard asset and for other lifesaving rescues during the first 24-hours in response to Hurricane Katrina.

United States Coast Guard

Air Station New Orleans

- CAPT Bruce Jones, C.O. Air Station New Orleans (pilot)
- CDR Scott Kitchen, X.O. Air Station New Orleans (pilot)
- LCDR Tim Tobiasz, Ops. Officer Air Station New Orleans (pilot)
- LCDR Tom Cooper (pilot)
- LCDR Russ Burnside (pilot)
- LT Olav Saboe (pilot)
- LT Roberto Torres (pilot)
- LT Aaron Green (pilot)
- LTJG Shay Williams (pilot)
- LT Dave Johnston (pilot)
- LT Craig Murray (pilot)
- LTJG Bill Dunbar (pilot)

- AET2 Roberto Lopez (Flight Mechanic)
- AMT2 Brett Oquist (Flight Mechanic)
- AST2 John Rice (Rescue Swimmer)
- ASTC Jeff Damotta (Rescue Swimmer)
- AMT2 Mike Colbath (Flight Mechanic)
- AST2 Chris Monville (Rescue Swimmer)
- AET3 Warren Labeth (Flight Mechanic)
- AST3 Lawrence Nettles (Rescue Swimmer)
- AMT3 John Jamison (Flight Mechanic)
- AST3 Dave Foreman (Rescue Swimmer)
- EM2 Rodney Gordon (Ground Support)

For performance of duty inside New Orleans, conducting air rescue operations during the first 24-hours in response to Hurricane Katrina.



Earl Higgins and Pete Langley were Los Angeles Co Firefighters who lost their lives attempting to rescue a boy from flood channels in 1984
<http://higginslangley.org>

SWIFTWATER RESCUE TEAM AWARD

Los Angeles County Fire Department

USAR-5103:

- Captain Lawrence R. Collins, Team Leader
- Firefighter/Specialist Leopoldo M. Ibarra
- Firefighter Anthony T. Huynh
- Firefighter Richard A. Atwood

Swiftwater 87:

- Captain Christopher S. Rash, Team Leader
- Firefighter David R. Joseph

Truck 86:

- Captain Kenneth E. Whiteing, Team Leader
- Firefighter/Specialist Martin A. Harper
- Firefighter Corey A. Magdalik
- Firefighter Matthew H. Briones

Engine 86:

- Captain Phillip Szabo
- Firefighter Specialist Donald Tryon
- Firefighter Tony Haberman Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- San Dimas Mountain Rescue Team
- Deputy David Smail, Assistant Reserve Coordinator
- Reserve Deputy Wayne Tolosa
- Reserve Deputy Steve Figueroa
- Reserve Deputy Raymond Hebert
- Volunteer Specialist Dana Dethloff

Angeles National Forest Fire Department

- Everardo Gonzales, Battalion Chief
- Sam Maldonado, Captain
- John Flores, Captain
- Alberto Ortega, Fire Patrol
- Arnold Ramirez, Engineer
- Scott Hague, Engineer
- Allen Khary, Firefighter
- Jeff Graham, Firefighter
- Edgar Portillo, Firefighter

In honor of a dangerous and complex multi-agency flash flood and debris flow rescue in San Dimas Canyon of a family of four, including an infant and young child, on January 10, 2005.

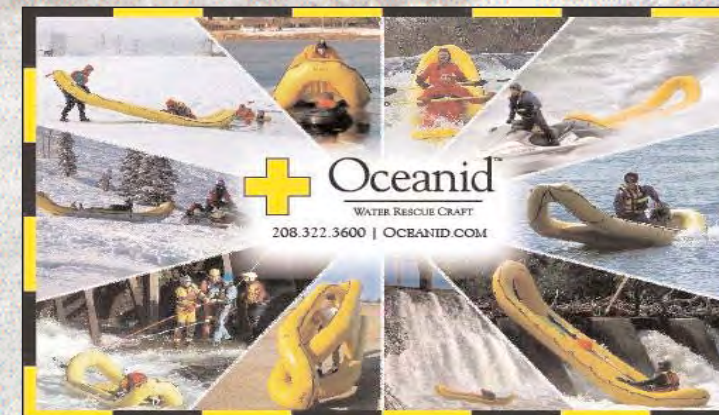
CONT.....

INTERNATIONAL AWARD IN SWIFTWATER RESCUE

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
South East Region, Gold Coast South Australia

- Steven J. McKittrick
- Steven J. Lohmann
- Robert M. Smyth
- Michael Mills

In recognition of the outstanding preparedness and swiftwater rescue teamwork that resulted in the successful rescue of two occupants of a vehicle that was washed away in raging floodwaters on 5 March 2004. This nighttime rescue was performed under extreme conditions during a torrential downpour.



SPECIAL COMMENDATION AWARD

Randy and Mary Cooksey
Friendly Yamaha Honda
Baton Rouge, LA

In honor of the tremendous service that was provided in support of the eight California Office of Emergency Services Swiftwater Rescue Task Force Teams that served in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, 2005, in New Orleans.

Shawn Alladio
K38 Water Safety

K38 Maritime Security Training

In honor of Shawn's unselfish dedication and initiative in supporting the California Office of Emergency Services Swiftwater Rescue Task Force Teams serving in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, as well as for her tremendous service above and beyond to the people of New Orleans, including Mr. Lionel Petrie and his beloved dog, Kita.

SWIFTWATER RESCUE INCIDENT AWARD

United States Coast Guard,

Air Station San Francisco

- LCDR Michael Platt
- LCDR Albert Antaran
- AMT1 Timothy Johnson
- AST2 Dennis Moyer

In honor of the 31 December 2005 rescue by the crew of Coast Guard Helicopter 6517 of a woman who was entrapped in her submerged vehicle in neck-deep water in a torrential current during severe flooding.

Ukiah Fire Department Swiftwater Rescue Team & Laytonville Vol. Fire Department

Ukiah Fire Department Swiftwater Rescue Team:

- Captain Charlie Miller, Team Leader
- Firefighter/Paramedic Nathan Vagt
- Vol. Firefighter/EMT Tyler Bushby
- Vol. Firefighter/EMT Ron Roysum
- Laytonville Vol. Fire Department:
- Captain Terry Guerrero
- Vol. Firefighter Daniel Zumkeller
- Vol. Firefighter Ryan Smith

In honor of the successful rescue of more than 50 residents from the flooded Oak Manor subdivision on December 30, 2005. These rescues were performed under conditions that were extreme.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AWARD IN SWIFTWATER RESCUE

London Fire Brigade
London, England

- Divisional Officer Mike W. Fleckney, Project Manager
- Assistant Divisional Officer David M. O'Neill, Lead Officer
- Station Officer David K. Hill
- Mr. Kean Boenke, Training Manager

In honor of developing a pioneering swiftwater and flood rescue program, which will serve as a worthy model for fire and rescue agencies in the UK.

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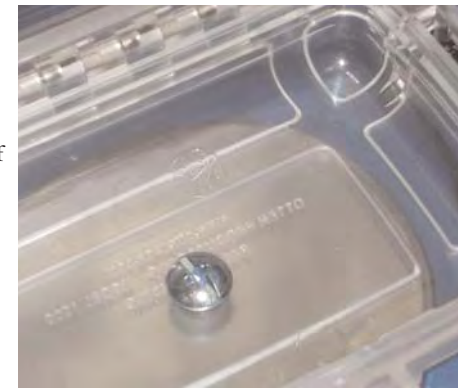
Otter BOX 1000 & 1600

MANUFACTURER: Otter Box
ORIGIN: USA
COST: \$11.50 (1000) \$29.95 (1600/magnet)
WEIGHT: 130g / .29 lbs (1000) 400g / .88 lbs (1600)
EXT DIMENSIONS: 4.837 x 3.682 x 1.652" (exc magnet)
INT DIMENSIONS: 4.003 x 2.488 x 1.293"
 Magnet Adds 3/8" to depth of case

Having previously looked at the Otter Box 3500 and 6010 we were impressed with the quality as well their range of sizes which offered excellent intermediate choices to their closest rival Peli-which is more widely known in the emergency services community. OtterBox offers some very specialist cases particularly for specific PDA, IPOD and GPS units. But it was the seemingly odd addition to their diminutive 1000 case of a magnetic mount that caught our attention for this review. The smallest case in their range is the updated Model 1000, indeed this is the smallest case we have found in any range! There has been a slight increase in size and design from last year's 1000 model which was a little thinner and a few grams lighter by virtue of not having the wider 'webbing' eye you can see next to the lanyard eye. The slight increase in dimensions can be seen in the comparative picture (below-right) which also shows the smallest Peli-microcase (top). The addition of a magnet and foam changes the 1000 to a 1600.

CONSTRUCTION:
 Available in 7 colours (Clear, Yellow, Blue, Black) and Clear lid with a coloured base (Yellow, Blue, Black) the 1000/1600 is a tough resin case reinforced with a sturdy lattice across all surfaces. This is much more substantial than the earlier 1000 model and is another reason for the increased bulk of the newest version. The Latch is a full 1/4" wider than before and has a lockable eye (for a small padlock) on one side. Where once there was just a lanyard eye there is now a belt loop as well as a separate lanyard eye. The lanyard itself is about 16" long and terminated with a removable plastic tab. The rather ungainly looking 1600 (MagMount) version has a powerful 3" diameter magnet housed in a stainless steel 'cup' bolted through the bottom section of the case. This is covered by a thin foam pad which reduces the internal volume to the same as the previous (smaller) 1000 model.

IN ACTION
 The Otter Box 1000 now houses our lightweight digi-camera, a Casio Exilim 7.2 mp and it will easily accommodate a whole host of modern digital cameras. Otter themselves recommend storing keys, mobile phone, small PDA etc but with micro-technology marching on there will be more and more previously oversized items that will fit this smallest of waterproof cases. The new design is a little bulkier than last years model (even without the magnet!) but there is no doubt that the improvements are tangible - the latch is easier to open and close, the belt loop/webbing eye makes it easier to stow and transport and the ability to lock the case is a good option although we've never felt the need since the case is so small it would be easy for a thief to steal the whole thing! The standard case is indeed waterproof but what about a case that has a large bolt drilled through it? Well, it's watertight in the face of heavy rain but most certainly is NOT submersible. However, if you disassemble the magnet and add a small blob of silicon sealant to both sides of the bolt before retightening you'll be able to submerge to at least 12" for an hour (our test depth & time). Which brings us to the bolt itself.....it's a dome-head bolt that sits proud of the bottom of the case. This is OK when you've got the foam pad in place but if, like us, you need to remove that in order to gain sufficient space to get your precious item in then the bolt is a problem. Remember, without the foam pad you have no shock absorbency so the bolt will crack your PDA or camera



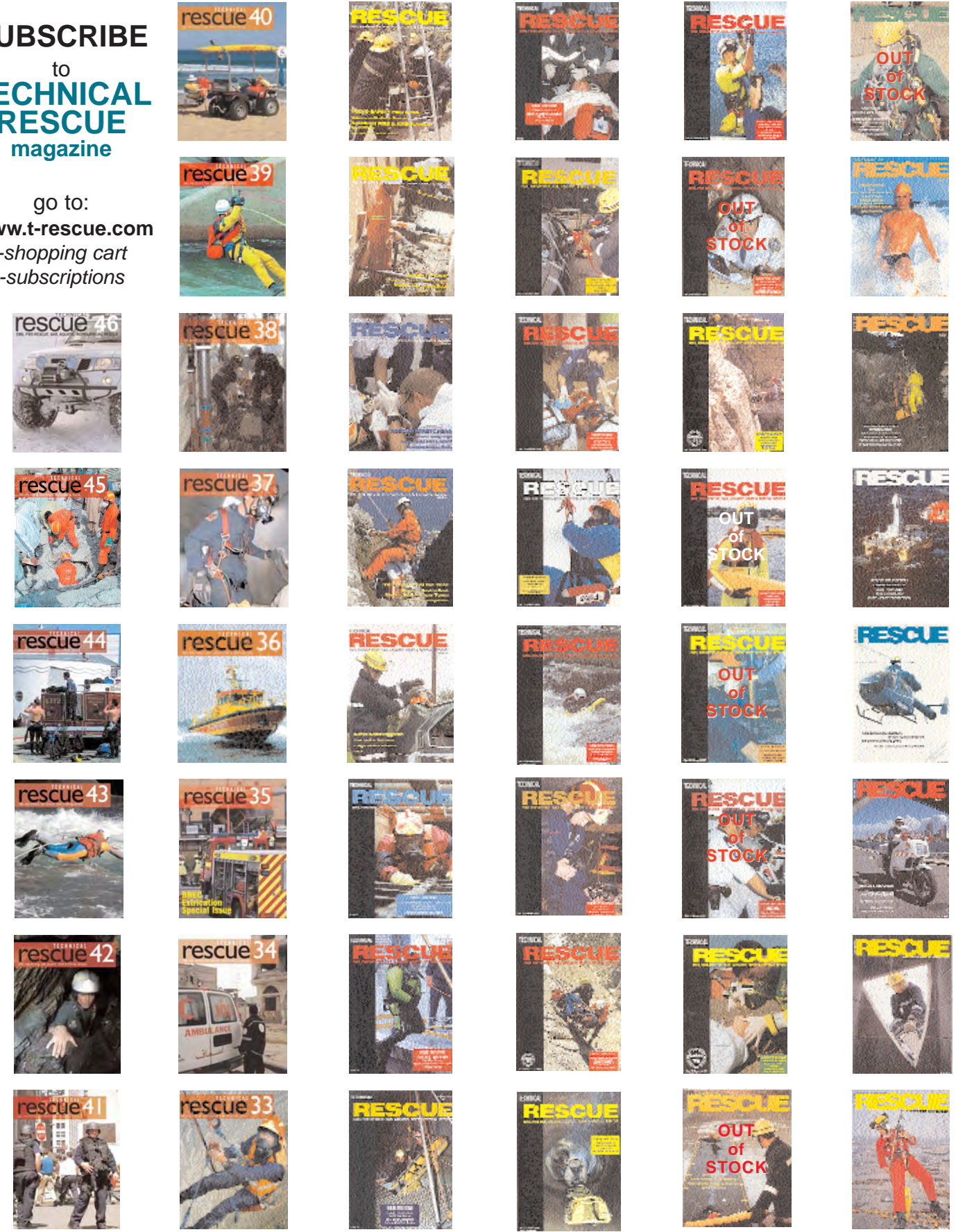
screen and dent your Ipod (if you're too frugal to buy Otter's dedicated Ipod housing!) and we think a counter-sunk flat head would have been preferable. This may cause a weakening of the case material since a cone of plastic is removed but because of the small size of case it would be negligible. So what about that huge magnet...what's the point? The point is, it will stick to any metal surface like a limpet mine and you will never again be at a loss for somewhere to put it when not in use - that's providing you're in a metal vehicle or on a metal boat! Ours remained firmly clamped to the roof of a response vehicle at 60 miles an hour (since it had a camera inside we didn't push it further!). This magnet really is quite powerful and you'll need to remove it by pulling at one edge because you'll struggle to pull it at right angles to the magnet. This is one of those things that you will find many uses for the longer you own it. The magnet is easily removed and you can seal it yourself though it's a shame Otter don't provide a dedicated sealing option. The 1000 case is a brilliant little storage option when you require something watertight and shockproof. Add the magnet and you triple its weight and lose complete water resistance but it becomes versatile in a different way - expect to see the ship painters with their Otter-encased phones close at hand and a fire-truck at an incident bristling with the crews precious items as they disappear into the smoke! Excellent value.
 Contact Otter via www.otterbox.com

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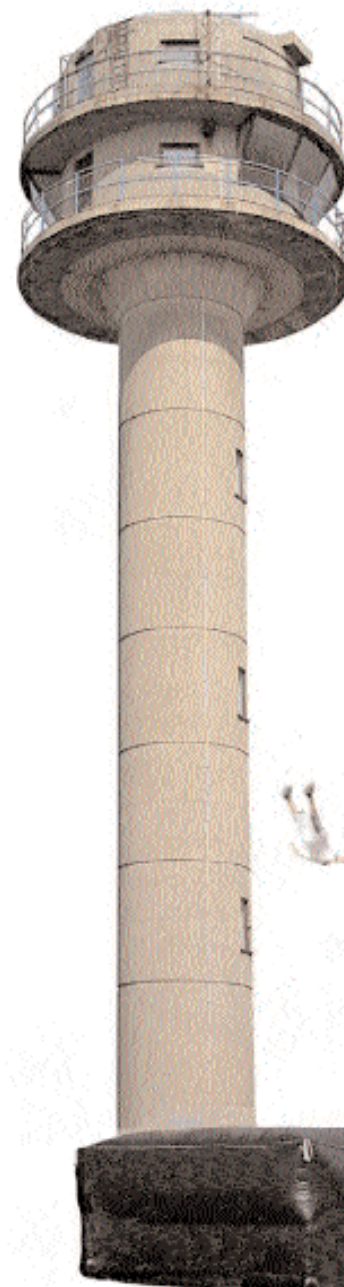
Police and Fire Services can improve incident resolution times and safety factors with a rapid inflating *Technical Rescue Airbag*. Capable of being carried on a small trailer, in a light van or twin-cab pickup for rapid response these airbags also provide the means to train safely at height in more realistic scenarios. Suicide jumper interventions can be resolved more quickly and roads/bridges/buildings reopened quicker. These airbags represent the very latest in specialist design and unlike regular airbags can safely 'capture' a faller across its entire top surface, not just the middle of the bag.

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- Adjustable impact softness with 3-power-option electric fans
- Slip-resistant top canopy helps stick the faller to point of impact.
- Provides above average catches during off-centre landings.

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CONTACT: airbag@t-rescue.com for demonstration Prices exclude VAT & delivery



Bag	Height	Size	Weight	Fans	Cost
50t/16m	5ft/1.5m	12ft/3.6m x 14ft/4.2m	75lbs/34kg	1	£4,250.
70t/22m	8ft/2.4m	15ft/4.5m x 20ft/6m	155lbs/71kg	2	£4,800.
100t/30m	12ft/3.6m	20ft/6m x 25ft/7.6m	185lbs/84kg	2	£5,350.

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