



Cave Rescue Operations & Management Seminar

presented by the

NATIONAL CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION

of the National Speleological Society

September 27 through October 4, 2008

California Caverns, Mountain Ranch, California

About the Seminar

This seminar consists of extensive classroom and fieldwork in all phases of cave rescue including underground environment, vertical rescue, hauling systems, extrication techniques, medical management, communication systems, and the organization and management of cave rescue operations. Basic and advanced course material is presented for students who typically include cavers, emergency services personnel, and emergency managers. The seminar provides approximately 100 hours of instruction over eight days. Its classes are physically strenuous and participants must be in good physical health. Students should be prepared to work in difficult situations, both above and below ground. Each student must demonstrate his or her ability to ascend (on rope) 25 meters, change over, and rappel part way down, tie off a descender, correct a jammed descender, then rappel safely to the ground as part of the initial check-in skills. Participants must review and sign a liability waiver at check-in registration. Persons under the age of 18 *may* be permitted to participate in the course but must contact the registrar prior to registration concerning specific rules and restrictions.

Courses Offered

Level 1

Level 1 teaches current cave rescue and emergency management techniques, and provides instruction in caving, basic rope work, litter rigging and transport, and incident command systems. It is specifically designed to meet the various needs of agency personnel with little or no cave-related experience, and cavers with little or no rescue or medical experience. Level 1 prepares the student to function as a cave rescue team member.

Level 2

This level prepares students to function as cave rescue team leaders. **Participants in Level 2 must have successfully completed an NCRC Level 1 course within the past four years.** The Level 2 curriculum assumes that students have learned, retained and practiced the skills taught in Level 1. Students are taught more advanced techniques in medical management, vertical and horizontal rescue, team leadership and incident management.

California Caverns

California Caverns located at Cave City in Calaveras County has been open to the public since 1850 and was California's first show cave. Early visitors included Bret Harte, Mark Twain and John Muir who wrote about his visit in his 1894 book "The Mountains of California." For 150 years, visitors have enjoyed the unique delicate beauty of the cavern's crystalline formations. Although the cave will remain open to tour groups during the seminar, we will have ample room for classes and training exercises in the park-like area at the caverns. Primitive camping and shower facilities will be available on-site.



Registration Parameters

Registration for this seminar is now open to all agencies, SAR organizations and active cave explorers. Registrations will be processed in the order received based on postmark. A waitlist will be established after the seminar is filled to assign, as possible, any openings that become available. A late penalty applies for registrations received after September 1. Additional information is available on the seminar web site at;

www.caves.org/committee/ncrc-wr



Personal Equipment Requirements

All personal equipment must be in safe, usable condition and marked to identify the owner. Equipment deemed unsafe or unacceptable during check-in must be replaced prior to the student's continued participation in the course.

CLIMBING HELMET

UIAA or CE approved mountaineering style helmet with a three or four point suspension and a quick-release, non-elastic chinstrap.

THREE SOURCES OF LIGHT

All must be capable of allowing you to exit the cave. At least two should be electric and two should be helmet-mountable.

BOOTS

Sturdy, rubber soled

RUGGED CLOTHING (see clothing note below)

SIX LOCKING CARABINERS

These must be independent of your ascending or descending systems

DESCENT DEVICE

Any of the following four devices are acceptable:

1. A standard rack
2. A three-bar Micro rack with a hyper-bar (4 bars total)
3. A Bobbin-type descender with off-set or safety carabiner
4. A "Rescue Eight" with ears

SEWN SEAT HARNESS

ASCENDING SYSTEM

Must be a complete working system with at least two points of gripping attachment above user's center of gravity

1. An additional mechanical ascender or prusik must be available for crossing knots, etc.
2. One of the system's mechanical ascenders must be functional as a Quick Attachment Safety (QAS)
3. Frog system users must incorporate a cow's tail

GLOVES

Must have leather palms and full fingers

WATER BOTTLES

Two quarts recommended

SMALL, PERSONAL FIRST AID KIT

Optional, but recommended

SMALL, HEAVY-DUTY PACK

Used to carry personal gear around underground

2 – 20 FT PIECES OF 1-INCH TUBULAR WEBBING

Travel Directions

California Caverns is located near Mountain Ranch, California. From Stockton take Highway 4 east to Angels Camp, then Highway 49 north to San Andreas. Take a right turn on Mountain Ranch Road and go approximately 25 minutes (9 miles). Turn right on the 2nd Michel Road turnoff at the California Historical Landmark sign that says "California Caverns." Follow the signs for approximately 2 miles to the driveway on the left. Although there is ample parking, the cave will be open to tour groups during the seminar. Students are encouraged to carpool as possible. GPS: 38° 12.20'N, 120° 30.55'W.

Meal Plan

A meal plan is included with the seminar registration. It will offer three meals per day, beginning with breakfast on Saturday the 27th and concluding with breakfast on Saturday the 4th. Spouses and/or other traveling companions may purchase the meal plan separately. If you have special dietary needs (vegetarian, diabetic, etc.) please note these on your registration form.

Accommodations & Lodging

Camping at the seminar location is included in the seminar registration fee. Camping for accompanying nonstudents is available at a modest fee. Bathrooms and showers will be available. Persons who prefer a motel may make their own arrangements, however, off-site accommodations are not encouraged. A list of nearby motels in San Andreas (~30 minutes) is available on the seminar web site. No RV hookups are available at the camp site.

Environment, Area, Caves & Clothing

Fall temperatures in the California foothills can range from 75° daytime highs to 42° evening lows. Rain may be possible at this time of year. Cave environments can be extremely muddy and wet in places with an approximate temperature of 53°. Elevation at California Caverns is approximately 2,100 feet. Be prepared to hike to caves for some exercises. Poison oak, ticks, and mosquitoes may be encountered. Long pants, short sleeve shirts, hats, sunscreen, sturdy boots, and plenty of water are recommended for comfort and safety during outdoor activities. Rugged multi-layered clothing (caving coveralls or caving pants), kneepads, sturdy boots, and leather gloves are recommended. Unfortunately, California Caverns sits in a local depression and does not provide reliable cell-phone service. Payphones are located on-site and the town of Mountain Ranch is about 10 minutes away by car.

Registration Contact

Amanda Mortimer, 1455 N. Echo Avenue, Fresno, CA 93728
(559) 442-4156 amandacaves@sbcglobal.net

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Please type or print legibly - Use one form per person - Detach and mail with registration payment
 All participants must review and sign a liability waiver at check-in registration.

Name: _____ Natl. Speleological Society #: _____

Address: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Day phone: _(_____) _____ Evening phone: _(_____) _____ Mobile/pager: _(_____) _____

Agency or Grotto Affiliation: _____ How long? _____

Dietary or health considerations: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Registration package: Level 1 Non-student accompanier

Level 2

Please list when and where you completed Level 1: _____

Please mail registration form and your check or money order to:
 Western Region NCRC
 1455 N. Echo Avenue
 Fresno, CA 93728
 (559) 442-4156

Students under the age of 18 **must** contact the registrar prior to entry.

Student Registration - includes meals and camping:	\$425.00	
Non-NSS fee - required for non NSS members:	\$36.00	
Non-student accompanier - includes meals and camping:	\$250.00	
T-shirt size: sm. <input type="checkbox"/> med. <input type="checkbox"/> lg. <input type="checkbox"/> xl. <input type="checkbox"/> xxl. <input type="checkbox"/>		
Seminar t-shirts - priced per shirt, list quantity and sizes:	\$12.00	
Late registration - after September 1:	\$25.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED:		

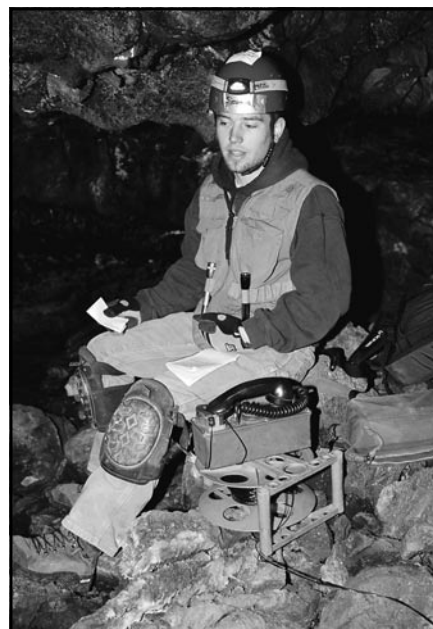
Cancellation Policy: This seminar is expected to be filled to capacity. There will be no cancellation penalty until September 1. After that date, there will be a \$50 processing fee and the remainder of your registration fee will be refunded. No refunds will be given after September 20.

Availability: There are 30 student spaces in Level 1 and 20 in Level 2. This seminar is open to all government agencies, county and regional SAR organizations and active cave exploration groups. All interested participants are encouraged to register early. A late penalty applies for registrations received after September 1.

Waitlist: Once filled, the seminar registrar will create a waitlist for students should spaces become available. Registrations will be processed in order received based upon postmark. If a waitlist student is advised that space is available, they will have 2 weeks to submit the registration fee prior to losing their space in line.

Confirmation: When your registration is received and processed, you will be notified by e-mail or postal mail.

Registrar:
 Date Recd: _____
 Confirmed: _____
 Cancelled: _____
 In-Region: _____



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