

# Mountain Rescue Association Rocky Mountain Region

## Re-Accreditation Packet

This packet includes a seven (7) page re-accreditation worksheet that will assist the evaluator's in determining whether the team being evaluated has met the requirements necessary for re-accreditation. Listed below are instructions on how to use these worksheets.

If you are assigned to evaluate the **Search**, please score the questions on pages 1 - 3 that you observed, (**black & white**) and also score page 4 (**green**).

If you are assigned to evaluate the **High Angle Evacuation or the Scree Evacuation**, please score the questions on pages 1 - 3 that you observed, (**black & white**) and also score page 5 (**red**).

If you are assigned to evaluate the **Technical Evacuation portion of Winter Rescue**, please score the questions on pages 1 - 3 that you observed, (**black & white**) and also score page 6 (**blue**).

If you are assigned to evaluate the **Avalanche portion of Winter Rescue**, please score the questions on pages 1 - 3 that you observed, (**black & white**) and also score page 7 (**purple**).

As an evaluator or observer you may not have the opportunity to observe all portions of one of the scenario's. If you did not observe a specific area, place an "X" in the proper column for each question. If the team did not perform a requirement in a specific area, place an "O" in the proper column for each question.

## **Now what??**

**Worksheets** are a tool to assist the evaluators in completing the Evaluator's Form and to provide the evaluators and observers a method of giving specific feedback to the team being evaluated.

**Observers** should fill out the worksheets and then discuss their observations with the evaluators that were at the same area.

**Evaluators** should fill out the worksheets and then discuss their observations with the appropriate observers prior to filling out the "**Evaluator's Form**". This final page of the packet is only to be filled out by the evaluators (observers may not fill out this page).

**Evaluators must complete and sign the Evaluator's Form and return it to the lead evaluator at the conclusion of the re-accreditation.**

**Observers and Evaluators must submit their worksheets to the lead evaluator at the conclusion of the re-accreditation.**

# Re-Accreditation Worksheet

## Scoring:

- 1 = Team does not meet the requirements in this area
- 2 = Team meets the requirements in this area
- 3 = Team significantly exceeds the requirements in this area

- x = Did not observe
- o = Did not perform the requirements in this area

Winter Rescue	Winter Rescue	Technical Rock	Technical Rock	Search
Aval	Tech Evac	High Angle	Scree	

## A. Organization

### 1. Mission Leadership

- a. Did a recognized leader take charge of the operation?
- b. Did he/she delegate responsibility appropriately?
- c. Did he/she have the respect and cooperation of the entire team?
- d. Did he/she gather information appropriately from other team members?
- e. Is there adequate depth of leadership on the team that others could take over the entire operation or specific aspects?
- f. Did they properly utilize the available personnel and equipment?
- g. Were distractions (e.g. press) handled appropriately?
- h. Were reporting parties and subjects vehicles properly handled?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Scene Leadership

- a. Did a recognized leader take charge of the operation?
- b. Did he/she delegate responsibility appropriately?
- c. Did he/she have the respect and cooperation of the entire team?
- d. Did he/she gather information appropriately from other team members?
- e. Is there adequate depth of leadership on the team that others could take over the entire operation or specific aspects?
- f. Did they properly utilize the available personnel and equipment?
- g. Were reporting parties and subjects equipment properly handled?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Coordination

- a. Did individuals on field teams work together to get their task done?
- b. Did field team leaders direct the efforts of their field teams and coordinate those efforts through the overall mission command?
- c. Did the team appropriately prioritize multiple victims and operations?
- d. Did the team function as a unified organization rather than as individuals?
- e. Was everyone on the team aware of the overall plan and worked toward it?
- f. Did necessary equipment arrive in the field when needed?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Judgment

- a. Were the situations evaluated thoroughly and correctly?
- b. Did the team "dig" for information from bystanders and victims?
- c. Was an appropriate approach taken to solve the problem?
- d. Were appropriate personnel selected for various jobs?
- e. Did the team react appropriately to new developments in the problem?
- f. Were the team members "clue aware", and did they report findings to team or mission leaders?
- g. Were individuals aware of their own limitations?
- h. Was the location of mission base appropriate for the situation?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Rescue	Winter Rescue	Technical Rock	Technical Rock	Search
Aval	Tech Evac	High Angle	Scree	

## A. Organization (cont)

### 4. Efficiency

- a. Did the team minimize wasted time and effort?
- b. Did personnel look for jobs to be done without being told?
- c. Were all jobs accomplished as quickly as reasonably possible?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Patient Care

### 1. Medical Care

- a. Was someone assigned to care for the subject?
- b. Was that person's medical background appropriate for the situation?
- c. Was a subject's medical condition continually reassessed?
- d. Did the team follow their medical protocols?
- e. Did the team make appropriate trade-off's between in-field medical care and expedient evacuation?
- f. Does the team have sufficient depth of medical training?
- g. Was the team aware of signs and proper treatment of possible environmentally induced injuries/illnesses?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Patient packaging

- a. Was the subject made as comfortable as appropriate for the situation?
- b. Were the injuries treated appropriately?
- c. Was loading handled in an appropriate manner?
- d. Was the subject secured in the litter?
- e. Was the subject properly immobilized per the teams medical protocols during loading?
- f. Was the packaging appropriate for the subject's injuries?
- g. Do the team's packaging techniques provide adequate environmental protection for the subject?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Rescue	Winter Rescue	Technical Rock	Technical Rock	Search
Aval	Tech Evac	High Angle	Scree	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

## C. Safety

### 1. Personnel

- a. Was the safety of the rescuers paramount at all times?
- b. Was everyone properly equipped for the situation (technical gear, foul-weather gear, etc.)?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Winter Rescue

- c. Are personnel trained in winter survival?
- d. Did personnel have their avalanche beacons checked prior to going into the field?
- e. Were local avalanche authorities contacted to determine avalanche danger in the area? (if applicable)

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Technical Rock

- f. Was everyone in rock danger wearing helmets?
- g. Were personnel tied in when necessary?
- h. Was rock fall danger minimized?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Technical systems

- a. Were anchors, knots, carabiners, etc. rechecked during the operation?
- b. Were knots adequate, properly utilized and safetied?
- c. Was the team aware of the hazard of icy ropes?
- d. Were ropes protected against damage from abrasion and rock fall?
- e. Was the system designed to minimize rock fall from running slopes?
- f. Were ropes appropriately managed during the operation?
- g. Were locking or double carabiners used where necessary?
- h. Did the team utilize any piece of equipment inappropriately?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Subjects

- a. Was extra equipment carried for the subjects?
- b. Was the subject secured as soon as possible (if necessary)?
- c. Was the subject secured throughout the operation?
- d. Was the subject's safety a priority during the entire operation?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Overall safety

- a. Does the team follow a consistent set of procedures?
- c. Do they use these procedures to ensure systems are within adequate safety margins?
- d. Are all members of the team adequately safety conscious?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

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D. Search

**1. Initial evaluation of the mission**

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- a. Does the team conduct a thorough interview with the reporting party?
- b. Is the reporting party kept available for follow-up questions and support?
- c. Are the expected points of return (subject’s home, vehicle, trailhead, etc.) monitored throughout the operation?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**2. Initial response**

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- a. Does the team match the mission urgency with the right kind, quantity, quality and urgency of response?
- b. Are logistical requirements such as maps, transportation, communications and special needs identified and met in an organized and timely manner?
- c. Are additional interviews and investigations started? (If appropriate)

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**3. Mission management**

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- a. Is a search plan developed?
- b. Is the plan distributed to all the necessary elements promptly and completely?
- c. Is a communications plan developed and implemented?
- d. Are field teams properly briefed on the subject, terrain, weather and anticipated hazards?
- e. Are field personnel appropriately equipped to perform their task?
- f. Does the management team plan for a transition to rescue if necessary?
- g. When the subject is found or the mission suspended, is there notification to the appropriate parties?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**4. Strategy and tactics**

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- a. Is the team familiar with the common and accepted strategies and tactics of search operations and proficient in their use?
- b. Are field teams “clue-aware”, and do they report clues to mission command?
- c. Is the team careful to not disturb (and protect) evidence?
- d. Do field teams attempt to attract the subject?
- e. Did field teams appropriately interview bystanders?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**3. Multi-agency organization structure**

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- a. Is the applicant’s senior leadership sufficiently familiar with the common search management structures (e.g. MSF, MLPI) to allow their team to work within a large-scale Multi-resource operation

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

Technical Rock	Technical Rock
High Angle	Scree

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## E. Technical Rock

### 1. General

- a. Did the team members utilize a consistent set of techniques?
- b. Did the team members recognize their own weaknesses?
- c. Did individuals adequately understand the principles behind the techniques used?
- d. Did Individuals understand the load limits of the system?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Anchors

- a. Were natural anchors used to the best advantage?
- b. Were anchors selected for position in relation to the problem?
- c. Were the anchors selected for security?
- d. Were the anchors backed up when appropriate?
- e. Did multiple anchor point systems distribute the load properly?
- f. Were the overall anchor systems "bomb-proof"?
- g. Did members appropriately utilize artificial protection? (If applicable)

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Lowering methods

- a. Did the team have appropriate equipment to conduct the evacuation?
- b. Did the team understand the proper use of the equipment?
- c. Was the rigging set up in the best location and was the system designed for safety and efficiency?
- d. Did the team understand strengths and weaknesses of their equipment and setup?
- e. Were the belay devices and techniques appropriate for the operation and terrain?
- f. Were the ropes managed effectively?
- g. Was the work area and equipment kept organized?
- h. Were distracting conversations and radio traffic eliminated during the evacuation?
- I. Did signals between litter and belayer take top priority?
- j. Were signals clear and concise?
- k. Were knot passes executed smoothly and properly?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Raising methods

- a. Was a mechanical advantage set up appropriately?
- b. Was the uphaul a smooth, united effort?
- c. Was a ratchet/safety utilized appropriately?
- d. Were pulley systems kept organized and uncluttered?
- e. Was an appropriate raising system utilized?
- f. Were knot passes executed smoothly and properly?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Litter management

- a. Was the litter rigging safe and appropriate for the operation?
- b. Were the carrying methods and number of litter bearers appropriate to the terrain?
- c. Was the litter properly positioned for the rescue situation and for the medical condition of the subject?
- d. Did the litter bearers work as a team?
- e. Did the litter bearers manage the litter so to care for / protect the subject?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

**F. Winter Rescue - Technical Evacuation**

**1. General**

- a. Did the team members utilize a consistent set of techniques?
- b. Did the team members recognize their own weaknesses?
- c. Did individuals adequately understand the principles behind the techniques used?
- d. Did Individuals understand the load limits of the system?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Snow anchors**

- a. Are enough members familiar with setting up adequate snow anchors?
- b. Were the anchors properly positioned in relation to the problem?
- c. Were the anchors used appropriate to the snow conditions?
- d. Were the anchors backed up when appropriate?
- e. Did multiple anchor point systems distribute the load properly?
- f. Were the overall anchor systems "bomb-proof"?
- g. Were boot-ax belays used, if so, were they done appropriately?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Lowering methods**

- a. Did the team have appropriate equipment to conduct the evacuation?
- b. Did the team understand the proper use of the equipment?
- c. Was the rigging set up in the best location, and was the system designed for safety and efficiency?
- d. Did the team understand strengths & weaknesses of their equipment and setup?
- e. Were the belay devices and techniques appropriate for the operation and terrain?
- f. Were the ropes managed effectively?
- g. Was the work area and equipment kept organized?
- h. Were distracting conversations and radio traffic eliminated during the evacuation?
- I. Did signals between litter and belayer take top priority?
- j. Were signals clear and concise?
- k. Were knot passes executed smoothly and properly?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Raising methods**

- a. Was a mechanical advantage set up appropriately?
- b. Was the uphaul a smooth, united effort?
- c. Was a ratchet/safety utilized appropriately?
- d. Were pulley systems kept organized and uncluttered?
- e. Was an appropriate raising system utilized?
- f. Were knot passes executed smoothly and properly?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Litter management**

- a. Was the litter rigging safe and appropriate for the operation?
- b. Were the carrying methods and number of litter bearers appropriate to the terrain?
- c. Was the litter properly positioned for the rescue situation and for the medical condition of the subject?
- d. Did the litter bearers work as a team?
- e. Did the litter bearers manage the litter so to care for / protect the subject?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

**G. Winter Rescue - Avalanche**

**1. General**

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Did the team select appropriate equipment for snow travel (skis, snowshoes, etc.)  
and were the members proficient with their use?
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Were they able to negotiate moderate snow slopes without problems?
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Were they able to move with reasonable speed to the accident site?
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. Can the members evaluate avalanche danger?
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. Did members approach the avalanche area in a safe manner?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**2. Avalanche Rescue**

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Was pertinent information obtained from the reporting party? (if applicable)
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Was the safety of the reporting party considered?
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Did the team members utilize verbal attraction while approaching the avalanche area?
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. Did someone function as an overall scene leader to evaluate clues and manage  
the overall operation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. Was an avalanche lookout posted in an appropriate location or did the team utilize  
other techniques to insure everyone's safety?
- \_\_\_\_\_ f. Were safe zones identified?
- \_\_\_\_\_ g. Was a beacon search conducted appropriately?
- \_\_\_\_\_ h. Were members instructed when to have their beacons on transmit or receive?
- \_\_\_\_\_ i. Was a hasty (scuff) search properly conducted?
- \_\_\_\_\_ j. Was a perimeter search conducted?
- \_\_\_\_\_ k. Were clues flagged, probed underneath & used to determine likely subject locations?
- \_\_\_\_\_ l. Was the scene leader informed of all clues and did he/she ask appropriate questions?
- \_\_\_\_\_ m. Were clues used to determine the number of subjects in the avalanche area?
- \_\_\_\_\_ n. Were multiple subjects and operations prioritized?
- \_\_\_\_\_ o. Can the team perform an adequate probe search?

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Evaluator's Form

(This form must be completed and signed by all evaluators and returned to the Lead Evaluator)

Team being Re-Accredited \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Each evaluator must now make decision(s) based on their evaluation of those area's that they observed. The worksheets you have filled out are only to be used to assist you in making these decision(s). No one question should be weighted more than another, nor should the scores be added up. The decision(s) you make will be subjective. In making your decision you should also consider the following questions for each of the three area's.

1. Would you feel safe if this team were to rescue you?
2. Would you trust your life to their systems?
3. Are their techniques familiar / standard enough that their members could easily integrate with other MRA teams?
4. Would you be able to work with this team on a mountain search and rescue operation?
5. Was the safety of any rescuer, the person(s) being rescued or any bystander ever inappropriately compromised?

=====

## SEARCH

PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_ DID NOT OBSERVE \_\_\_\_\_

Strengths in this area \_\_\_\_\_

Weaknesses in this area \_\_\_\_\_

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## TECHNICAL ROCK - SCREE

PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_ DID NOT OBSERVE \_\_\_\_\_

Strengths in this area \_\_\_\_\_

Weaknesses in this area \_\_\_\_\_

=====

## TECHNICAL ROCK - HIGH ANGLE

PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_ DID NOT OBSERVE \_\_\_\_\_

Strengths in this area \_\_\_\_\_

Weaknesses in this area \_\_\_\_\_

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## WINTER RESCUE - TECHNICAL EVACUATION

PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_ DID NOT OBSERVE \_\_\_\_\_

Strengths in this area \_\_\_\_\_

Weaknesses in this area \_\_\_\_\_

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## WINTER RESCUE - AVALANCHE

PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_ DID NOT OBSERVE \_\_\_\_\_

Strengths in this area \_\_\_\_\_

Weaknesses in this area \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Evaluators Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evaluators Team