

CAVE RESCUE OPERATIONS IN THE BÜKK MOUNTAINS TROUGH THE EYES OF A DOCTOR

Dr. Riskó Ágnes – Dr. Szabó Levente

Borsod County Hospital – Miskolc
The North Hungarian Association of Cave
Rescuers



Among those who are passionate cavers there can be found a few doctors

Therefore in case of an accident it is obvious that they come to the aid of caver in trouble

The tasks of a doctor in this case include

- getting down to the injured person
- attending to his or her injuries
- preparing him or her to be transportable
- accompanying the patient, so that to be able to intervene in case there is deterioration in his or her condition



One needs :

medical knowledge, especially in the emergency area

besides the ability to climb

to be trained in rope usage and vertical technic

lack of claustrophobia and dizziness



Beyond that :

we also need to take part in rescue work practise to be really part of the team

it is certainly useful if the doctor is familiar with technical methods of rescue operations, and if circumstances require is able to help



We train :

how to secure and transport injured people either on stretcher, hanging on a rope, or secured on triangular harness

how to descent from a helicopter to get to the injured people, or accompanying him while the transportation if it is necessary because of urgency, or the site is impossible to reach on roads



We have a special stretcher providing possibility for different transportation functions



A warm armed-legged sleeping bag and tension straps belong to it, making it possible to secure limbs even in the case of fractures

There are straps under the soles as well, so if it comes to putting the stretcher in vertical position the patient remains secure

The stretcher can be turned to either side – just like a briefcase – therefore it fits trough narrow spaces without the patient falling out of it

With its straps, ears and carabiners it can be secured to ropes, hanging, on the surface and underground



Here we are going to show it is possible to protect the patient from cooling, if for some reason he or she cannot be brought out straight away



The average temperature of Hungarian caves is 9-10 Celsius degrees



Each caver's helmet contains an isolating foil

Two of these are sufficient to create tent, which can be heated with carbide lamp



An isolating foil can be used to cover the patient



RESCUE OPERATION IN THE SZIRÉN CAVE

- Cavers from Budapest were mapping in the Szirén cave of the Bükk, when rocks fell on one leg of 20-year-old caver-girl
- The fractured injury on the leg was attended to



After binding up the wound, and securing the limb

LIFE JACKET



we put on her a life jacket
We could not use a stretcher, for the pits of the cave were too narrow, and full of scree

We handed her out hand-by-hand from person to person in the narrow spaces of the cave



The life jacket was secured by a rope as well, so we could move her up vertically



On the surface an Ambulance took over the patient who was taken to the hospital

The subsequent x-ray did not indicate any fracture



RESCUE OPERATION IN THE WATERED CAVE OF LÉTRÁS

- A special rescue team from Budapest was practicing in the Bükk
- The more experienced part of the group had already left, while some people - among them a dog handler – were hiking in the watered cave of Létrás
- Unfortunately (or fortunately) I was one of the members of this team

It was the first time the dog handler has ever been to a cave, he slipped on a steep and clayey cliff, fell about 2 m and broke his right upper arm

It quickly became clear that the experienced Rescuers were not present, and the unexperienced injured was not able to climb out even if it was a not too difficult part

However it took quite some time to convince the team leader of this fact, so that we could alert the North Hungarian Cave Rescue Service

During the wait he was kept warm by some isolating foil, I had already secured the fractured arm, had given him painkillers, and he was hydrated

DESSAULT BINDING



The fractured limb was secured by Dessault binding

When the team arrived an infusion was set as well, and the patient was secured in a special stretcher



Following this we started transporting him out of the cave

In one instance a narrower space had to be widened by blowing with a Hilti-patron so that the stretcher could get through





By midnight we managed to get him out, and the following day he was operated in the Traumatology Department of B.A.Z. County Hospital using an unreamed humeral nail (UHN)



After a few weeks he recovered completely and he and his rescue dog both send their regards



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION!

