

SHORT PRESENTATION OF THE BELGIAN CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION

We will be short, because most of us have the same techniques and organisation, I just will present the administrative aspects – which in fact are the topics of this Conference.

Beginning:

From 1952, we have a National Organisation for Cave Rescue. We are working in connection with the Belgian Civil Defence. We have an official contract between the Ministry of Interior and our federation, the Union Belge de Speleologie.

The Civil Defence provides us the LEGAL REQUIREMENT, and the LOGISTICS. The Union Belge de Speleologie provides the cave rescuers, trains them and is responsible for all aspects of the cave rescue operations.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

We work as –let's say- subcontractors of the public service. We are entirely in charge for underground operations, we are insured from home and the rescuers received a loss a earning in allowance.

LOGISTICS:

We have the use of a container full of speleo equipment. This container is ready to start on a truck from a Civil Defence permanent unit.

Usually, a minibus and a mobile command car go with. We also may ask all the existing material, as pumps, diving equipment and so on.

SPELEO SECOURS:

We nominate the Technical Advisors, who are in charge for rescue operations, and after those are accepted by the Civil Defence.

We also choose and train the rescuers, who are all members of the Federation.

FINANCES: The Civil Defence do not ask any money for the rescue operations. Some times municipalities (firemen) ask for it.

Civil Defence gives to Speleo Secours a fixed annual amount, provides and replaces the needed equipment.

The rescuers received in order of 9 €/h in real operations and less for the official trainings.

That should cover the cost for everybody.

INTERVENTIONS:

In Belgium, we have some 1.700 cavers and within 100 rescuers. We have from 3 to 5 rescues every year and 4 exercises.

After 55 years of optimal life, we voluntary will collaborate with any country who wish in administrative or technical aspects of rescue.

As Belgian representation, we are pleased to thank all of you for this magnificent organization and hospitality.

We will remember those days for a long time.

Jean Marc Mattlet
& Bernard Urbain.