

A photograph of a mountain rescue operation. In the foreground, a grey and black snowmobile with 'ALPINE' branding is parked on snow. A stretcher is mounted on the back of the snowmobile. A rescuer in a red and yellow jacket and helmet sits on the stretcher. To the left, a red and white sled is visible. In the background, a wooden cabin with a window and a circular medical emblem on the wall is shown. The emblem features a green cross and a white flower, with the text 'ÖSTERREICHISCHE BERGRETTSWESEN' and 'LAND STEIERMARK' around it. Other people in winter gear are visible near the cabin.

Mountain rescue

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Mountain rescue in general

- Search and rescue activities occurring in mountainous environments like..



crevasses



Avalanches



Glaciers and other alpine environments

Other general information

- Special equipment like helicopters and search dogs is needed because of challenging terrain
- paid or voluntary workers
- Most of the time it is free, but in some parts of the world you have to pay for the rescue service (f.e. Switzerland)



Some general information

- Operated by 99,9% volunteers
- Available 365/7/24
- Existence of special groups for things like canyoning, avalanches (SAR dogs), cable car evacuations..
- Alpine Emergency number: 140
- Funding of the organization: donations, supporter programme, billing of call outs and government contribution



Cable car

Example of a search strategy

Basics:

-> Missing individual, time pressure, friends and relatives, etc..



1. Situation Assessment
2. Planning
3. Decision and realisation
4. Continued reassessment and adaptment of actions if necessary



Technical gadgets and tools

- Mobile phones -> GPS and various Apps
- GPS transmitters
- Satellite transmitters
- IMSI Catchers
- FLIR Helicopters
- Night Vision Goggles
- Database (Police, Hospitals, Ambulance Service,..)



IMSI Catcher



Forward looking Infrared of a FLIR helicopter

BUT: modern technologies do depend on environment and the users competence!

Training, equipment, physical condition and intelligence are key factors to avoid emergency situations!!



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Thank you for your attention 😊