



June 7, 1990

M O U N T A I N
RESCUE
A S S O C I A T I O N

RESCUE FORUM

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Irv Lichtenstein, Chief
Greater Philadelphia Search and Rescue
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Dear Mr. Lichtenstein.

I understand that you have been promised a copy of the Accreditation Procedures used by the Rocky Mountain Region of the the Mountain Rescue Association. Which is exactly what you will find enclosed! You may not be aware that each MRA region establishes and enforces its own set of criteria for accrediting search and rescue teams. This is in order to allow regional tailoring to the needs, circumstances and environment of the region. So you will find variations from region to region. The Rocky Mountain Region worked for two years to rewrite our criteria. It has been acknowledged by two other MRA regions as the most detailed and extensive in the MRA by their adoption for their use.

On another, related note, I occasionally have the opportunity to enjoy reading the newsletter of your organization, "From The Chief." It is passed along to me by Judy Hanna, the MRA Executive Secretary. I noticed in the April 15 issue on page three a reference to "Mountain Rescue Association Certification." I believe a clarification is in order. The MRA does use the term "certify", as the national MRA does not "certify" teams. The MRA does not have the authority to "certify" anything. Understandably, the differences between "certify" and "accredite" are subtle and are still used by some interchangeably. Our own members are still getting used to using the more appropriate terminology. Obviously from the article published, affiliation with the MRA is something you have investigated. I thought I would take this opportunity to set the record straight. If I can help in any other way, please do let me know!

Sincerely,

Howard M. Paul

cc: K. Conover, MRA East. Rgn.
H. Holloway, president