

SEARCH AND RESCUE IN NORTHERN GARRETT COUNTY

PROBLEM: Provide an efficient and effective search and rescue effort in rural and wilderness areas.

AREA OF CONCERN: Northern Garrett County - covering 550 square miles, with a population density of 32 people per square mile. Included in this area is the Savage River wilderness area which comprises 62,000 square acres of undeveloped forests and mountains.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE: Maryland State Police and Garrett County Sheriffs office.

GROUP PROVIDING MANPOWER FOR SEARCH: Ambulance units and Rescue Squads - Fire Departments - C.B. Clubs - Department of Natural Resources.

INDIVIDUALS WHO DEVELOPED SEARCH SYSTEM: Floyd Baker, Telephone: 301 895-5215  
Trooper Carl Skidmore, Telephone: 301 895-5711

HISTORY OF PLAN DEVELOPMENT: In 1973 Floyd Baker and Carl Skidmore met with several Garrett County Fire Departments to develop a search and rescue procedure for the mountainous terrain. The attached packet describing their procedures was the result of this work. Through the summer and fall, drills practicing the search and rescue plans were carried out.

- SEARCH CARRIED OUT TO DATE:
- 10/23/74 - Lost hunter.
  - 6/13/75 - Lost child.
  - 10/ 1/75 - Lost hunter.
  - 12/17/75 - Lost adolescent.
  - 5/21/76 - Lost mental patient

News articles forthcoming.

# NORTHERN GARRETT COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

P. O. BOX 293

PHONE (301) 895-5188

GRANTSVILLE, MARYLAND 21536

Northern Garrett County Rescue Squad acknowledges the cooperation of members of the Maryland State Police, Grantsville Volunteer Fire Department and the Fittinger Volunteer Fire Department for the initial planning and organization of an effective and systematic search and rescue procedure. Also to Southern Garrett County for their participation in the training meetings, simulated drills, and actual search situations where the plan was put to use.

Through the efforts of these dedicated persons who gave freely of their time, a search and rescue procedure has developed that will provide law enforcement personnel with an adequate number of trained people, a chain of command, and effective communications.

This Search and Rescue Procedure should bring organization and effectiveness to an area that has in the past been total confusion. Also that the plan and equipment can be used not only for search and rescue but be easily adapted for other major emergency or disaster situation.

We dedicate this Search and Rescue Procedure, first to all who have over the past years responded to the call for help and their efforts hampered by a lack of organization, and second, to all of those who have worked to bring about an organized program.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURE

### Responsibilities

Law Enforcement: State Police, Sheriff's Department, other law enforcement agency.

Initial Investigation: To determine as quickly as possible if a full scale search is necessary.

Alert: Search and Rescue Unit as early as possible for either standby at quarters or to proceed to the scene. Also other fire departments and rescue squads to be used.

Information: Have full written information as to description, information as to conditions and the possible area involved. This information to be made available to fire chief and rescue squad captain or their representative.

Plan Search Area and Procedure in cooperation with fire chief and rescue squad captain.

### Assign Areas of Responsibility

Post persons to assist units responding to location.

Traffic and crowd control.

Location of command post and rescue vehicles.

Be available to evaluate information as may become available and further direct the search.

Be In Command.

Note: If dogs are available and are to be used, control start of search as directed by persons in charge of the dogs. Under no circumstances does that dog get more than one try and the first search party starts immediately after the dog.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURE

### Responsibilities

#### FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Plan Search Area and Procedure, Fire Chief, in cooperation with Law Enforcement Officer and Rescue Squad Captain. Have maps available to determine natural boundaries and establish search pattern.

Assign Squad Leaders, who have the leadership ability to take command of his squad and follow directions as given. The Squad leader is a key man and is in charge of and responsible for the proper formation, effective search, and the safety of each person in the squad. Squad Leaders reported to registration upon arrival.

All Other Men of the Department Be Available for search squads.

Report to registration on arrival.

Fire Chief Remain Available to further direct the search.

Note: Have surveyor's tape available to mark search area.

All Personnel Return to Registration, return equipment and check out before leaving.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURE

### Responsibilities

#### RESCUE SQUAD

Plan Search Area and Procedure, Rescue Squad Captain in cooperation with the Law Enforcement Office and the Fire Chief. Have maps available to determine natural boundaries and establish search pattern.

Assign E. M. T. for each search squad. This person is to assist the squad leader and is in charge of any necessary first aid.

These E. M. T.s reported to registration on arrival.

All Others Be Available for search squads and report to registration on arrival.

Rescue Squad Captain Remain Available to further direct the search.

Have Ambulance on scene for emergency transport.

All Personnel Return To Registration, return equipment and check out before leaving.

Other Department And General Public.

Report to Registration for assignment and follow directions of squad leader.

Return To Registration, return equipment and check out before leaving.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURE

### Responsibilities

#### REGISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Prepare, on first alert, maps of designated area, make a check of all equipment and supplies.

Registration of all persons to go into the search area. Supply arm band, giving special attention as to the proper formation of squads as directed by the command post. Ascertain physical condition, medical history, properly equipped, before assigning to search squad.

Make Available Equipment to Squad Leaders. A card bearing the description as obtained from command. Hand carried radio (instruct its use and test).

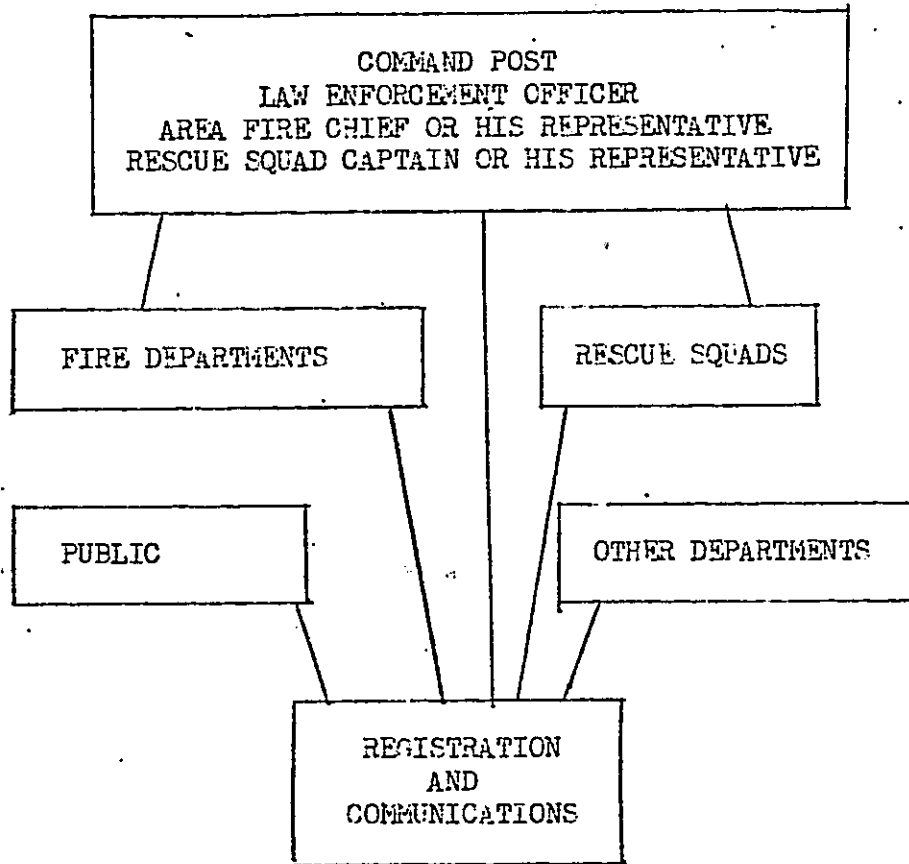
B. M. T. Rescue Pack. Issue numbered color coded arm bands to each searcher.

Register Return of equipment and personnel.

Communications. Establish and maintain (with trained personnel), communications from command post to squads and from command post to unit base.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURE

### Chain Of Command



### SQUAD FORMATION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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- (5) Squad Leader, Fireman, in charge and responsible for the proper formation effective search and the safety of each.
- (6) E. M. T. Assists Squad Leader and responsible for First Aid.
- (1) Man familiar with search area.
- (10) Marks search area with surveyors tape.
- (X) Fire and rescue personnel and volunteers.





NORTHERN GARRETT COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURE

INSTRUCTOR LESSON PLAN

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	
5 - 8 Minutes	Introduction	Personnel Purpose of plan General explanation of plan operation.
20 - 25	Responsibilities	Law enforcement Fire Departments Rescue Squads Other Departments General Public
10 - 15	Responsibilities	Registration Communications
10 - 15	Chain of Command	Operational Procedures Squad Formation Squad Responsibilities
10 - 15	Questions	
60 - 120	Field Exercise	Simulated Search



*[The text in this section is extremely faint and illegible due to the low contrast and quality of the scan. It appears to be several paragraphs of a letter or document.]*

# Garrett County Rescue Tells Its Story

By PAUL S. FRANK, JR.

Forty volunteers met in August, 1972 to begin the first EMT-A course held in Garrett County, Maryland. By November they had passed EC-1 and began the operation of Garrett County's first Rescue Squad, the only volunteer rescue squad in Maryland that was composed of fully credited EMT-A's when they graduated in February, 1973.

Since that beginning when the Grantsville Volunteer Fire Department provided housing for the two second hand ambulances provided by the Garrett County Commissioners, the Squad had grown to five ambulances, a rescue truck, its own headquarters in the Grantsville Area Health Center and a substation in nearby Accident, Maryland.

As more volunteers joined the squad and with the availability of Federal funds for an ambulance in the central part of Garrett County, the Squad agreed to finance operations from the second location. This relieved the crews which work during the day by providing two crews instead of one, doubling the service capability to the citizens of Northern Garrett County. Problems have doubled too as coordination between Grantsville and Accident is perfected.

Problems of extrication at vehicle accidents pointed to the need for tools and expertise in extricating accident victims. With the talents and ingenuity of members of the Squad, a vehicle was purchased and equipped especially for the purpose of disentangling vehicular accident victims. This equipment has not only been used in auto and truck accidents, but it has

also been used at several aircraft accidents.

Fifteen percent of the Squad membership has been certified by the State of Maryland as Cardiac Rescue Technicians. It is expected that a fully equipped unit will be available in the Fall of 1976 for operation by the Squad's CRTs.

The unusual number of lost persons in the wild areas of the county prompted the Squad to react to yet another need of the community. They assisted one of their members, a Maryland State Policeman, in forming a Search and Rescue Plan and thereby training personnel in conducting a comprehensive search. The Northern Garrett Co. Rescue Squad operates and maintains an ambulance which can be converted to a communications vehicle to serve as the command post during search and rescue operations. Conversion is accomplished by removing the cot and replacing it with a table housing radios and search packs of first aid supplies.

In existence just three and one-half

years, the Northern Garrett County Rescue Squad is answering the need of its community through the efforts of dedicated volunteers who will continue to serve their fellowmen as long as they are in trouble and in need of assistance.



*New ambulance at Accident, Maryland, as part of the Northern Garrett County Rescue Squad.*

## Luck, Knowhow Save Trapped Workman's Leg

By EDWARD COLIMORE

*News-American Staff Reporter*

RUXTON, MD. — Baltimore County firemen and rescue volunteers worked feverishly two hours here Friday to free a maintenance man whose leg was trapped in the jagged blades of a water main pipe cleaner.

Ralph J. Ruocco, 21, of the 6900 block Donachie Road, Towson, luckily escaped serious injury after his right leg was pulled into a 10-inch pipe by a steel scraping device.

"I didn't think I would have any leg left, he said following the ordeal. "I just had visions of blood . . . I'm glad it's over."

Ruocco, who was working in an eight-foot-deep hole in the 1900 block Ruxton Road allegedly used his foot to shove the cleaner in the pipe when a blade tore through his trousers and into his leg.

A fellow worker and friend, Robert Griebe, was flagging cars when he

heard a scream and went to the aid of Ruocco as his leg was sucked further into the water main.

Griebe called to another worker to turn off the powerful device and telephone an ambulance.

"I could see Bob (Griebe) from the ditch," Ruocco said. "I didn't know if I would lose my leg or what."

Workmen were clearing the moist soil from the victim when the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Dept. rescue unit and a Baltimore County Fire Dept. ambulance crew responded to the call.

Dr. Frank T. Barranco, an orthopedic surgeon at Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GMBC) and volunteer doctor for the Lutherville Fire Dept., was among the first to arrive.

He was driving to his home near the accident when he heard a distress call on his car monitor.

*(Continued on Page 23)*



*Shows fleet of vehicles of the Northern Garrett Co. Rescue Squad, at Grantsville, Maryland.*

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# HOUSE AND SENATE APPROVES REVISED GOOD SAMARITAN LAW FOR STATE OF MARYLAND. GOV. MANDEL SIGNS BILL INTO LAW ON MAY 17

By MILTON S. ZEPP,  
2nd Vice President, MSARA

## Good Samaritan Bill

FOR the purpose of providing for the liability for civil damages of physicians, nurses, members of fire departments or ambulance and rescue squads, law enforcement officers, and other persons and organizations providing emergency medical service or care; and making this Act an emergency measure.

### BY repealing

Article 43—Health  
Section 132  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1971 Replacement Volume and  
1975 Supplement)

### BY adding to

Article 43—Health  
Section 132  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1971 Replacement Volume and  
1975 Supplement)

(A) A person licensed by the State of Maryland to provide medical care, who renders medical aid, care, or assistance for which he charges no fee or compensation: (1) at the scene of an emergency; (2) in transit to medical facilities; or (3) through communications with personnel rendering emergency assistance is not liable for any civil damages as the result of any professional act or omission by him not amounting to gross negligence.

(B) A member of any state, county, municipal or volunteer fire department, ambulance and rescue squad, or law enforcement agency who has completed an American Red Cross course in Advanced First Aid or its equivalent and possess a current card indicating that status as determined by the Secretary of Health and Dental Hygiene, or is certified by the State of Maryland as an emergency medical technician or cardiac rescue technician has the same immunity provided in subsection (A).

(C) Members and employees of federal, state, county, or city governments, hospitals, emergency medical service councils and agencies which operate as nonprofit groups that provide support to the emergency medical system through the provision of care, equipment, facilities, or consultant support without charging the emergency victim a fee for the serv-

ice provided are not liable for any civil damages resulting from acts or omissions not amounting to gross negligence.

(D) A person not included in the above categories, who without compensation renders emergency assistance at the scene of an emergency, is not liable for acts committed or omitted, provided the person rendering the aid acts in a reasonably prudent manner and relinquishes direction of care of the injured person when a person licensed or certified by the State of Maryland to provide medical care or services is in a position to assure

responsibility for care of the injured person.

SECTION 3. And be it further enacted, that this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and having been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Emergency Bill No. 821 which was signed and became effective on May 17, 1976.

## LUCK, KNOWHOW

(Continued from Page 21)

"I had just completed some surgery at the hospital," he said. "Of course, I got over there as soon as possible to see if I could do anything."

"I just tried to make the man comfortable until he was freed," he added.

The ambulance crew administered oxygen and an intravenous injection to avert shock while firemen put boards under the victim's back for support.

Workers used a backhoe to dig through the soil to the pipe in hopes of breaking the iron water main that held Ruocco prisoner.

After clearing a parallel hole, Reuben Jackson, 50, a maintenance man, used a shovel to clean away debris and loose soil near the pipe. Perspiration and mud covered the rescuers.

While the mercy mission continued, a medivac helicopter landed in a nearby field, waiting to fly the patient to the shock-trauma unit of University Hospital.

Other workers took turns pounding the metal pipe until it shattered, exposing Ruocco's bloody, swollen leg. Minutes later, the helicopter whisked him away to University Hospital

where he was listed in satisfactory condition.

John Powell, an official of Raymond International, a private firm contracted by the county to do pipe cleaning, said the victim apparently kicked the scrapping device when he was pulled in the pipe.

"There is a lot of tension on those cleaners and they'll jump," he said. "The men have been shown how to operate them. There is no excuse for this to happen.

"In fact in my 30 years with the company it's never happened."

Ruocco, a health science major and lacrosse player at Towson State College, was to be released today after receiving sutures for a deep leg gash.

His fiancée, Elizabeth Bradley, 19, a native of Pottstown, Pa., said Ruocco's rescue was a miracle.

"When I talked to him (Ruocco) at the hospital, he said he really enjoyed the helicopter ride," Miss Bradley said. "He was even in a first-name basis with the nurses. I guess he's okay, eh?"

—Baltimore News-American

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