

TECHNIQUES, TRAINING & REVIEWS.

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NSW Cave Rescue Squad Gear.

As an active member of the NSW Cave Rescue Squad, I would like to keep people informed of what is happening internally, the gear used, training days and any rescues (hopefully not many).

Rescue Packs: I thought it would be best to start with the gear used. There are ten rescue packs, all with the same contents, as follows (Photos 1, 2).

1. 8 x aluminium screw gate locking carabiners.
2. 2 x large steel screw gate locking carabiners.
3. 1 x high rated steel Delta (triangular) maillon rapid.
4. 1 x Petzl Rescue pulley with aluminium auto locking carabiner.
5. 2 x Petzl Fixe pulleys with screw gate locking oval aluminium carabiners.
6. 1 x Petzl Stop.
7. 1 x 60m x 11mm static rope.
8. 1 x 10m x 11mm static rope.
9. 2 x 5m x 11mm static rope.
10. 1 x 5m x 6mm chord.

All the small parts are kept in a small MTDE Minit kit personal bag and then it all fits into a MTDE 40 litre Exploration caving pack. Each pack weighs 10.5kg.

Stretchers: There are also several stretchers available. Our primary stretcher is the Petzl Nest (Photos 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8). Our other stretchers are the Paraguard Excel Rescue Stretcher (Photo 9) and the Aspiring Rescue Wrap (Photos 10, 11, 12)..

In the event of a rescue all stretchers are taken, just in case there is more than one injured person or someone may be injured during a rescue.

We also have a separate bag of gear that includes:

1. Petzl Shunts, which are used with each stretcher.
2. Petzl RIG descenders. Only used for the Z-rigs/haul systems.
3. Petzl ID descenders. Only used for the Z-rigs/haul systems.
4. Stacks of spare carabiners.
5. Tape slings.
6. Rigging plates. Only used for Z-rigs/haul systems.

In future NSW Cave Rescue Squad articles I will discuss training weekends, some of the rigging techniques that are used and communication systems.

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Photos of NSW Cave Rescue Squad Gear and Stretchers.. All photos by Chris Curtis.

Photo 1: CRS pack contents. Photo 2: CRS pack.

Photos 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8: Petzl Nest Stretcher.

Photo 9: Paraguard Excel Rescue Stretcher

Photos 10, 11, 12: Aspiring Rescue Wrap.

