



www.HCRU.org

Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit, Inc.

Member

Alabama Association of
Rescue Squads

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Statement of Policy

The Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit (HCRU), based in Huntsville, Alabama, is an entirely volunteer organization specializing in **cave, cliff, high-angle** and **rough terrain search and rescue** operations.

The HCRU has existed since 1956, when it began to serve the community by organizing the skills of its membership in cave and wilderness rescue. The unit maintains a mobile cache of **specialized equipment to support search and patient evacuation operations**. Each member of the unit carries adequate personal equipment to ensure self-sufficiency in both underground and above ground environments for an extended period of time. The HCRU is one of the best equipped and most capable units of this type in the country.

The HCRU participates in search and rescue operations throughout northern **Alabama**, southern **Tennessee**, and western **Georgia**.

The unit conducts regular training courses in cave and high-angle rescue for area EMS personnel and outdoor enthusiasts. CEUs are approved for these courses. Additionally, the unit holds monthly training classes for its membership to present new information on medical, SAR, and high angle techniques. Training curricula are prepared by HCRU members, several of whom have attained Instructor status through the National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) and the Alabama Fire College.

The HCRU is not an Emergency Medical Agency, although many of its members are Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians. The HCRU is a specialized unit that is capable of locating an isolated victim and safely transporting him or her to a location where normal EMS operations can be effectively performed. The HCRU will work with and assist the local authority with one stated goal: **Safe and successful evacuation of the patient from a hostile environment**.

The HCRU is ready to assist any person or agency, within the bounds of its charter, as a public service.

HCRU Callout Information

Huntsville Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (HEMSI)
MEDCOM
(256)722-7158 or (256)722-7159, 24 hours a day.