

Bio – Tom Evans

Tom attended the University of Washington and earned four bachelor's degrees (Geology, Biochemistry, Cell Biology, and Evolutionary Biology), then attended Washington University and earned an M.A. in Geology. He spent two years teaching and tutoring in the Seattle area before going back to graduate school to earn a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences and a Certificate in College Teaching at Montana State University. Throughout this process he realized how his cognitive skills could be utilized to benefit those working at height (fire/rescue personnel, rope access technicians, etc.) to improve their safety. So he started a research program to generate data that could be utilized by the professional rope user. His results have been presented at ITRS, MRA/NASAR, and state SAR conferences, where he champions the use of data and critical thinking to determine the safest methods to use. In addition, Tom is a champion of data-driven teaching and learning techniques, and seeks to help others use these methods to improve their professional practice. Recently Tom started a nonprofit, SAR³, to further rigging research and teaching.