

## *Bio - Charley Shimanski*

Charley Shimanski is a 25+ year veteran of Alpine Rescue Team, and the Mountain Rescue Program Coordinator for Flight For Life Colorado. Flight For Life provides critical care transport with five helicopters that assist search and rescue agencies throughout Colorado's 54 14,000-foot mountains with rescue capability, aerial search support, and an Avalanche Deployment Program. A leader in helicopter rescue operations and training, Charley is the Air Rescue Commission delegate to the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR). Past President of the Mountain Rescue Association, Charley serves as a frequent speaker at national and international rescue conferences.

## *Abstract - When Angels Fall; Accidents in Helicopter Rescues*

While rescue mountaineers must strive at every turn to focus on the safety of their victims, they understandably must put their own safety first. Rarely, rescuers will be hurt, or even killed.

This multi-media presentation will include a detailed discussion about the multitude of elements pertaining to the risks in helicopter rescue operations in mountainous terrain and will profile a number of helicopter rescue accidents use of helicopters, and will include analysis of those accidents.

Utilizing materials from several Mountain Rescue Association teams and the NTSB, this Power Point presentation will include dramatic video images of helicopter accidents. Case studies of accidents and near-misses in mountain rescue operations will be featured in this program.

We will follow the 35-minute PPT presentation with a 25-minute panel discussion covering risks in helicopter rescue operations.