

Presenter Bios:

Margaret Dungan (EMPF, MEDLI) has been working professionally in extreme terrain since 2004. As a paramedic for Grand Teton National Park, she has spent over 100 days a summer on wildland fires across the country. She is the former training officer for San Juan County Search and Rescue, where she continues to develop the high-angle training program. Her rescue work with ropes and pulleys began as a whitewater kayaking guide and as a River Ranger with the Bureau of Land Management. Mechanical advantage is her favorite kind of muscle. She is currently Training Officer / Paramedic for the Silverton Ambulance and also owner of Remote Response Medics LLC, an EMS training and staffing company.

Tim Lum retired last year from the USFS after completing 26 seasons as a Smokejumper / Paramedic and Task Force Leader. Since the 1980s, Tim has been acquiring lessons learned and good stories. He has served in the DOD as a Special Operation Forces Engineer (Green Beret) and as a Pararescueman (PJ). He has had multiple stateside and overseas assignments conducting training and operational missions in all facets of combat search and rescue (CSAR), including confined space, underwater, high angle, low angle, crevasse, high elevation, helicopter hoist, parachute employment, backcountry, and NASA astronaut rescue contingencies. Tim is currently a Flight Paramedic / Loadmaster for Berry Aviation, Inc. providing austere casualty evacuation for DOD personnel in NW Africa.

Abstract:

Given the recent developments and popularity of Rapid Extraction Module Support teams (REMS), it is important to understand the conditions and methods that best integrate technical rescue into the unique setting of wildland fire. Guidelines for REMS are new and evolving; REMS are not yet defined by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

First, we will take a retrospective view of technical rescue on wildland fires. Next, we will perform case study reviews with lessons learned. Finally, we will look at the modern REMS team and make recommendations for the future.

REMS teams will reflect the technical rescue culture and practices in which they were trained. It is suggested that teams look across disciplines in mountain rescue and heavy fire rescue to determine the optimal solution. An understanding of the historical evolution of technical rescue on fires will allow the modern REMS teams to make informed choices about their equipment, standard operational guidelines, and best practices.

The presenters bring a well-rounded perspective on the different methodologies used by both federal and private agencies. Their professional experience includes missions and technical training with the BLM, USFS, NPS, US Military Special Operation Forces, Fire Departments, and County Search and Rescue Teams.