

Presenter Bio:

Robert Walters has been a rescue professional for 44 years, including work as a Fire Captain/Paramedic, National Park Ranger, EMS Coordinator, Ski Patroller and Professional Educator teaching medical professionals Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support. His passion has been rescue work and safety. He is a professional member of the American Avalanche Association and a member of the Association of Professional Patrollers (APP), where he leads the Technical Rescue program. Robert has presented rescue training at major National Parks and has been a team leader and rescue leader for Jackson County SAR. He has been involved with 12 in-the-line of duty deaths during his career and shares his passion for increased rescuer safety by encouraging the use of a "Near Miss Reporting" system for technical rescue operations.

Abstract:

The medical field has implemented "Just Culture" as a method to improve medical safety and reduce medical errors. Aviation uses "Crew Resource Management" to improve aviation safety. The National Park Service and United States Coast Guard use the GAR Risk model as a risk calculation and reduction method. Avalanche education has shifted its educational methodology to the "Human Factors" for avalanche safety. How do these methods work, and can they improve the safety of technical rescue operations?

We will draw our own conclusions with a review of the following:

- Blindness, Confirmation Bias, Heuristics
- Rappelling accidents, carbineer roll-out incidents; use of vehicles with winches in technical rescue incidents; and tying in at the edge at 10 ft. as a standard operating practice.
- How teams implement procedures for prevention and what can be learned from "near miss" incidents and accidents. What makes for higher levels of performance in technical rescue operations?
- How can we improve technical rescue with implementation of a national system reporting of "near miss" technical rescue accidents, or near accidents, based on the "Fire Near Miss" reporting system and "Avalanche Near Miss" reporting systems?

At the end of this presentation, the attendee shall be able to:

- Adopt and implement risk mitigation concepts for their rescue team.
- Understand Blindness, Confirmation Bias, and Heuristics during technical operation field checks.
- List the 5 steps to respectfully stop or change unsafe operations.
- Understand why a "Near Miss" incident reporting system is important to technical rescue team safety.
- Review "Near Miss" incidents that have occurred.
- List common characteristics of high performing teams.