

Bio:

**Micah Rush** is a Rescue instructor, Fire Fighter, and IFMGA mountain guide, with a wide variety of rescue skills and knowledge crossing these disciplines. Micah is the only rescue tech in the country with Rope Access III, Rope Rescue, Mountain Rescue and the full International Federation of Mountain Guides Association (IFMGA) certifications. Micah is also the lead instructor at Peak Rescue, a company that he started. Micah is also a rescue team coordinator for regional rescue teams that respond to a variety of rescues. His emergency response has taken him all over the globe to perform high-end rescues and recoveries. He has also done multiple expeditions all over the world, to climb and put up new routes. He has authored climbing books around Wyoming where he has the fastest record for The Cirque of Towers in the Wind River Range. This means covering nearly 20 miles, climbing 11,000 feet and rappelling more than once (10:15). He really just gets lost a-lot and is a student of all aspects of rescue and climbing. His claim to fame is he can eat a whole bag of gummy bears in one sitting! He lives in Wyoming with his two children and wife.

Abstract:

Even a seasoned rescuer occasionally finds themselves in unlikely situations. With very little initial information and time, I had to make the decision to choose a team of rescuers to retrieve three bodies of men who had died from an unknown cause in international waters. These men were stuck in a confined space approximately 170 feet down the leg of a decommissioned offshore drilling rig. Complicating the matter even more, the accident involved coordinating and communicating with a group of Indian seamen, the coastguard, coroner, ports, helicopter service, boat captains, and two large companies from India, all within international waters. Navigating the nuances of the retrieval, while also balancing the sensitivity of different cultures and burial procedures, as well as the skepticism surrounding the events of the accident became something I wanted to share with other rescuers. I found myself faced with many different tough decisions that required accuracy, competency, and perfect execution.

The viewers will leave with an understanding of the procedures and practices best used for international water rescues. This is important, due to the fact that other countries purchase American offshore drilling rigs to use/sell as scrap metal. This is a multi-million dollar industry, and although at the time this was a unique situation, it may become more prevalent in the future. It is important to know the role the Coast Guard will play and who ultimately has your teams' back.

This interactive presentation will allow viewers to examine tough questions and topics such as:

- the human factor in events such as this
- How to ensure the safety of your team in physically exhausting and mentally taxing situations, while still completing the job at hand.
- The importance of communication when navigating the personal interactions of foreign businesses, while respecting the losses of these men and the impact on the remaining seamen and their families.

Viewers will leave weighing decisions and the consequences of their decisions as if they are executing this difficult, potentially life threatening rescue.