Norsk Grotteblad nr 43, November 2004

Redningsøvelse i en 40-meters sjakt

Rescue exercise in a 40-meter shaft

In NGB no. 41 Rushfeldt argued convincingly for the organization of a Response Team within the Norwegian Cave Rescue Service.

The first team meeting took place at Mo on 28-30 May 2004, with two Swiss guests. The purpose was to train in rigging a pitch for lifting and to carry out the lifting in a speedy and safe manner.

Olafshullet is a 42 meter deep fossil shaft (Figure 1). A lifting system permitting a total weight of 150-200 kg was constructed. 2-3 persons lifted rapidly 200 kg. based on an exchange of 1:6. A newly cut birch stock was used as a marker. The entire operation from start of rigging until the stretcher and all persons were out, took 120, 60 and 75 minutes in three rounds.

Dr. Rushfeldt dealt in some detail with the following points of advanced first aid:

1. General examination of patient.
2. Large hemorrhage. Top priority!
3. Intravenous fluid. Medical assessment necessary!
4. Acute compartment syndrome. Surgery urgently required!
5. Pelvis fracture. Careful examination and handling!
6. Pressure pneumothorax. Doctor to puncture thorax!

In a long-lasting operation rotation of sleep may be organized. Brief sleep (1/2 to 2 hours) is better than no sleep.

More persons have expressed interest in joining the Response Team. More weekend gatherings will be arranged. Also, an exercise involving several pitches is considered, possibly in Kvandalshola, June 3-5, 2005.