

Norsk Grotteblad nr 43, November 2004

Redningsøvelse i Beiarn

Rescue exercise in Beiarn

Beiarn Caving Club and Beiarn Red Cross invited to a rescue exercise in Gråtådalen on July 4, 2004. The exercise was to include search above as well as below earth. 20-30 persons attended.

Before start of the exercise the Norwegian Cave Rescue Service (NGRT) demonstrated its equipment, with special emphasis on what might turn out to be useful during the exercise.

Case: At 11 a.m. an 8-year old boy was reported missing from a party of 6 adults - of whom 3 were cavers - and 10 children. The control centre was established in the schoolhouse in Gråtådalen. The police officer from the Beiarn sheriff's office was exercise leader. A forward reporting station was erected.

After extensive search activity in numerous caves the marker was discovered at 14.25 in Steinågrota. He was transported out urgently without use of stretcher due to threatening undercooling. He was out of the cave at 14.50.

Among the points from the evaluation: Too few walkie-talkies were available - the area did not have mobile phone cover. Information about patient treatment was inadequate. The control centre was not adequately manned, so that the planning of the search suffered. In contrast, two persons in the forward reporting station turned out to be one too many.

Not all the searchers received a cave map of the area, which complicated communication even if each search team had a person familiar with the area.

Conclusion: Everybody appeared to be content with what was learnt from the exercise.