

Redningsøvelsen i Sotbäcksgrottan

Rescue practise in Sotbäcksgrottan

In 2007, The Swedish Speleological Organization, The Mountain Rescue Service and the Police were gathered in Abisko to exercise cave rescuing in three different caves. NGF was there observing, and three instructors from Wales had been brought in. The organization of cave rescuing in Sweden was discussed. It was decided that three Mountain Rescue Teams (from Kiruna, Frostviken and Hemavan), organized by the Police, should have the responsibility for cave rescue operations. At the same occasion formal cooperation with the Norwegian Cave Rescue Team was agreed.

Since then, the situation for cave rescuing in Sweden has been aggravated. One group doesn't exist anymore, and even though having bought SRT equipment the two remaining groups lack experience at the moment.

A cave rescue operation in a vertical system will be dependant of support from the Norwegian side. On our side we may be given good support from the Swedes. It is therefore necessary with common exercises.

The rest of this article describes a rescue practise in the Sotbäcksgrottan, one of Sweden's best known and most visited caves. An important part of the operation was organization and logistic.