

Technical Track

Thursday, May 28

1330-1500

Workshop Tech #1, Technical – *Robinson Center, Room 101*

System Safety Factors

DJ Walker, Austin, TX Fire Department

This is a discussion about system safety factors/ratios in rope rescue often referred to as safety factors. At times there can be confusion deciphering how the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and other standards apply in rope rescue. There are also different variations for how “safety factors” are derived. We will discuss these standards, methods for calculating system safety factors/ratios, and how rigging methods can affect system safety. What “safety factor” does your team use? 4:1, 10:1, 15:1? Are these really obtainable? We will take a more in-depth look at safety factors/ratios and strive to answer some of these questions.

1530-1700

Workshop Tech #2, Technical – *Robinson Center, Room 101*

Red Mountain Bus FTX & the Guiding Line

Norm Rooker, Ouray County EMS, CO.

The portion of US Highway 550 that connects the City of Ouray to Silverton, CO is comprised of 27 highly scenic and twisty miles with very few guardrails and steep drop offs of up to 410 feet. Since January of 2005, Ouray County emergency services have responded to eight over the side vehicle rescues, all for cars, SUVs or vans. And most recently, a 20 foot panel truck. Emergency responders for this portion of Colorado wondered what rescue strategies would be needed to respond to a tour bus going over the side ala the Mexican Hat Utah 2008 motor coach accident and rescue efforts. Towards that end, a school bus was obtained and pushed over the side of Red Mountain. Come join Norm as he describes how this Field Training Exercise was put together, what strategy and tactics were selected, how the FTX played out and the lessons learned.

Friday, May 29

0830-1000

Workshop Tech #3, Technical – *Robinson Center, Room 101*

Belaying Falling Loads

DJ Walker, Austin, TX Fire Department

Have you ever caught a falling load on a Belay? Does your team regularly practice Belay Line actuations? If you answered no to one of these questions this is the workshop for you. If you answered yes how does your team facilitate this? What Belay devices do you use and why? Belays are a common staple among many technical rescue teams, but I have found that technical rescue training often focuses primarily on the mainline systems and minimize Belay System practice. Does this mean that the Belay Systems are less important? This workshop will give participants the opportunity to actually catch falling loads on various Belay devices. We will discuss various factors and how they relate to Belay effectiveness. Discussions will include: belay technique, belay system selection, rope elongation, and the affects of edge friction.

1100-1200

Workshop Tech #4, Technical – *Robinson Center, Room 101*

Avoiding Edge Trauma - Using Artificial High Directionals

Loui McCurley, Pigeon Mountain Industries, Inc.

Steve Hudson, Pigeon Mountain Industries, Inc.

“Edge Trauma” is the term given to trauma inflicted on equipment, systems, and rescuers as a result of edge friction and obstacles in the high angle environment. Edges themselves are an unavoidable fact of any high angle rescue operation, and learning to negotiate edges effectively is a matter of education, understanding, and skill. This session will explore the use of various forms of Artificial High Directionals with emphasis on easy rigging, force multipliers, and tips for best use of high directionals.

1330-1500

Workshop Tech #5, Technical – *Robinson Center, Room 101*

Two Tensioned Rope Systems

DJ Walker, Austin, TX Fire Department

For many rescuers in the United States, *Two Tensioned Rope Systems* are commonplace, but in other areas they are considered taboo. For those not familiar with these systems, we will define the difference between *Two Tensioned Rope Systems* and the more traditional *Single Tensioned Main Un-tensioned Belay Systems*. We will consider the advantages and disadvantages of both. This discussion would be an excellent precursor for those planning to attend the Hands-on Technical Rescue Systems workshop series, though it is not a requirement.

Saturday, May 30**0830-1000**

Workshop Tech #6, Technical – *Robinson Center, Room 101*

Two Tensioned Rope Systems- Hands on

DJ Walker, Austin, TX Fire Department

This workshop will give participants the opportunity to get their hand on Two Tensioned Rope Systems and use them in practical settings. We will review the advantages to these techniques and discuss different applications. Whether you are a trained rescue guru or have never touched a rescue rope, this workshop will be beneficial to all. We will discuss the basics and explore the intricacies. You are encouraged to bring your own rescue equipment (helmet, harnesses, gloves, etc) or there will be equipment provided by PMI, our Track Sponsor.

1030-1130

Workshop Tech #7, Technical – *Robinson Center, Room 101*

Two Tensioned Rope Systems – Hands on

DJ Walker, Austin, TX Fire Department

This workshop will give participants the opportunity to get their hand on Two Tensioned Rope Systems and use them in practical settings. We will review the advantages to these techniques and discuss different applications. Whether you are a trained rescue guru or have never touched a rescue rope, this workshop will be beneficial to all. We will discuss the basics and explore the intricacies. You are encouraged to bring your own rescue equipment (helmet, harnesses, gloves, etc) or there will be equipment provided by PMI, our Track Sponsor.

1300-1500

Workshop Tech #8, Technical – Robinson Center, Room 101

Counter Balance Systems

Tom Burroughs, Washington County AR Search and Rescue

This clinic will focus on the use of counterbalance haul systems appropriate to search and rescue applications. Specifically addressed will be rappelling counterbalance, climbing counterbalance and diminishing loop counterbalance as time and conditions permit.

1530-1730

Workshop Tech #9, Technical – Robinson Center, Room 101

Counter Balance Systems

Tom Burroughs, Washington County AR Search and Rescue

This clinic will focus on the use of counterbalance haul systems appropriate to search and rescue applications. Specifically addressed will be rappelling counterbalance, climbing counterbalance and diminishing loop counterbalance as time and conditions permit.