

**MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND**  
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**  
**JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Job Title:</b>	Mountain Rescue Development Officer
<b>Employer:</b>	Mountaineering Ireland
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Chief Officer of Mountaineering Ireland. A steering group for this post will comprise of 2 members of NI Mountain and Cave Rescue Co-ordinating Committee (NIMCRCC), Sport NI Technical Advisor, 1 Board member of Mountaineering Ireland, and 1 member of the IMRA Committee.
<b>Based at:</b>	Tollymore Mountain Centre (from May 2010 on completion of new building), although the post holder may be required to work from home.
<b>Purpose of job:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To coordinate development of mountain rescue teams and to liaise with IMRA officer and other UK MR Committees.</li> <li>- To develop and implement the NIMCRCC development plan.</li> <li>- To source and co-ordinate funding and grant requirements of the 3 voluntary teams.</li> </ul>
<b>Salary:</b>	£10,000 per annum
<b>Hours:</b>	Part time, 15 hours per week
<b>Background:</b>	<p>An overview of the team's core activities is provided below:</p> <p><b>(i) Irish Cave Rescue Organisation</b>  In 1964 the Irish Cave Rescue Organisation (ICRO) was formed to organise and co-ordinate the response to cave rescue situations. This body represents and supports cavers north and south of the political border in their response to incidents and has a seat on both of the national co-ordinating committees for rescue in Dublin and Belfast.</p> <p>Each cave rescue is co-ordinated by people from a list of cave wardens, experienced and competent cave rescuers with extensive local knowledge of the caves in their particular area. There are two recognised caving areas in N. Ireland in Fermanagh and in Co. Antrim and responses have been pre-planned to incidents in both of these areas. There are currently 25 ICRO wardens, nine of which cover Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Regular practices take place to ensure that members of the call-out list have opportunities to practice rescue related skills; to work together to provide a response; and to investigate the difficulties of rescues from various caves. There are on average four major rescue practices per year with a variety of other more specialised training undertaken by wardens.</p>

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##### **(ii) Mourne Mountain Rescue Team**

The Mourne Mountain Rescue Team (MMRT) was established in 1962 and as such is the longest established civilian team in Ireland. In common with most mountain rescue teams its members are all volunteers with a mountaineering interest and competence. The team based in Newcastle Co. Down provide rescue cover mainly in the Mourne area but are available to assist in any other area of Ireland or elsewhere.

Interested individuals apply to join the team and experience a probationary period during which they are expected in their first year to attend 75% of practices and acquire both a level of personal mountaineering competence and a range of mountain rescue skills.

Full team membership is gained by successfully passing an internal assessment when they then qualify for call out.

All members train regularly in areas such as Search Management and Search Skills training, First Aid (both basic and advanced), Navigation, working on steep ground, Crag rescue techniques, Rope rescue skills, working with stretchers and Helicopters. Courses on Mountain Rescue are attended by all levels of membership in various locations in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland. A high level of personal climbing and trekking skills exists in the team with a wide range of experience in climbing in areas around the world such as the Himalayas the Andes and the Alps amongst others.

Rescues range from searches for missing persons to climbers who have suffered sprains, broken limbs, and heart attacks. In the last year 2007/08 MMRT had four fatal incidents and average 18 full rescues per year. MMRT have responded to 162 rescue incidents in the last ten years making it one of the most often used Mountain Rescue Team in Ireland.

##### **(iii) North West Mountain Rescue Team**

The North West Mountain Rescue Team (NWMRT) was set up in 1980 to provide rescue cover for people hillwalking and climbing in the Sperrin Mountains and in Donegal and was formed by keen mountaineers from the Londonderry area.

The team currently provides a response to incidents in the Sperrins, Fermanagh, N. Antrim and Donegal and has some 35 active members. The team operates a regular, well attended training programme covering first aid, search, stretcher and crag rescue techniques and operates a training log book system for all of its members. Members also attend courses and seminars in England and train on a weekly basis.

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#### Key Responsibilities

<p>1. To coordinate development of mountain rescue teams and to liaise with IMRA officer and other UK MR Committees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To service the NIMCRCC and undertake all relevant liaison duties required.</li><li>• Attend as required and report to IMRA meetings.</li><li>• Attend UK MR committee as required.</li><li>• Represent NIMCRCC at UK Search and Rescue Strategic Committee meetings as required.</li><li>• Ensure that each voluntary team is kept up to date with current thinking and best practice.</li><li>• Ensure that independent assessments of each team take place as required by NIMCRCC.</li><li>• Co-ordinate generic training that each team requires e.g. Media awareness, child protection, drug administration etc.</li><li>• Develop clear communications and opportunities for inter-team and agency operations.</li></ul>
<p>2. To develop and implement the NIMCRCC development plan and any review of Mountain Rescue Services recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In conjunction with the 3 teams and other NIMCRCC members to create a new rolling 5 year development plan.</li><li>• Create opportunities that assist the teams in implementing the resulting development plan.</li><li>• Develop practical ways of assisting teams to progress their roles and work.</li><li>• To work with other staff and volunteers in Mountaineering Ireland to promote mountain safety and the role of Mountain Rescue Services to hillwalkers, mountaineers and the public at large through workshops, road shows and seminars particularly with leaders, clubs and training courses.</li></ul>
<p>3. To source and co-ordinate funding and grant requirements of the 3 voluntary teams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To liaise directly with individual teams to identify and prioritise key funding requirements and build these into development plans.</li><li>• To source opportunities for new funding for various teams' operational requirements.</li><li>• To assist the teams in fulfilling the requirements under the SNI grant procedures for both revenue and capital programmes.</li></ul>
<p>4. Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Produce an annual report on mountain and cave rescue statistics in Northern Ireland.</li><li>• Any other duties as would be reasonably required for the purposes of the post.</li></ul>