

CSCA Technical Training News Sheet

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CHANGE TO JSCVL QUALIFICATION

Logbook endorsement now required to lead SRT caving trips.

All JSCVLs who wish to lead SRT trips, pull-throughs and gorge descents must now have their logbooks endorsement for SRT. This endorsement may be gained by attending either an Improvised Cave Rescue course (CVR) at Ripon or attending an authorized SRT Rescue Workshop run by the CSCA.

Because it is fully appreciated that obtaining time off work to attend the full CVR course is difficult the CSCA are able to run 2 day SRT self rescue training and assessment workshops. It is planned to run these at the Easter and AGM meets but they can also be tailored to individuals needs. The workshops are available to all "SRT Proficient" cavers, not just to JSCVLs

- JSCVLs who have attended a CVR course within the last 3 years may apply to the CSCA Technical Training Committee for SRT endorsement, applications must be supported with a copy of the Course certificate and recent logbook experience.
- JSCVLs, who have not attended a CVR course and wish to utilize SRT, should either apply for the next course or contact the Technical Training Adviser for details of the next "Workshop".
- Cavers who attend a CVR or SRT rescue workshop prior to their JSCVL assessment course will be awarded a logbook endorsement for SRT on successful completion of the JSCVL assessment.

Previous caving regulations only permitted a JSCVL to **"Lead SRT caving trips for cavers who are SRT Proficient in caves with which they are familiar"**. The reason for this is that the JSCVL assessment course at Ripon only assesses the candidate's ability to lead caving trips using Ladder and Lifeline and to use SRT only for their personal protection and

progression up and down pitches. There is not enough time in either the leader training course or the assessment course to cover all the necessary skills for SRT caving. It is very unlikely that the format of the courses will change.

Being permitted to lead SRT in familiar caves was a relaxation of the rules to allow JSCVLs to maintain their SRT skills. However, this effectively prohibited a JSCVL from extending his personnel caving skills and gaining the experience necessary to progress towards the instructor award because they would only be able to enter an unfamiliar cave and practise route finding and "on sight" pitch rigging if under the supervision of a qualified instructor.

As a caver I want to see as few restrictions as possible placed in the way of competent cave leaders in charge of capable groups of cavers. It is also important that cave leaders can employ all the modern techniques available to them, for those leading trips in the Yorkshire Dales the technique is predominantly SRT. The basic principle behind all the regulation concerning caving is that *"A cave leader should be permitted to lead caving trips anywhere in the world within his own personal abilities and experience and the abilities of his group"*. That statement should be sufficient, however the MoD likes to use a few more word to regulate official activities.

A Cave Leader's ability and experience to lead an SRT trip must depend on his ability to deal with any incidents that he may be reasonably expected to encounter. A midrope accident is one of the major problems associated with SRT caving and the leader MUST be able to deal with such an incident. Therefore the techniques for this type of self rescue should be known and demonstrated before a Cave Leader could be said to have the ability or experience required to lead an SRT trip.

REMEMBER

An unconscious caver left hanging on a rope will die within 20 minuets unless YOU can rescue him.