

Buxton Mountain Rescue – Base team membership

To keep us fully operational 24/7 BMRT needs not only members at the sharp end but also an army of people behind the lines to ensure we are always ready to go whenever we are called into action.

Being ready involves not only the practicalities of equipment and vehicles, but also the logistics of running an organisation of 60 people and a turnover of £40,000. This includes organising training, first aid, compliance with legal requirements, record keeping, maintaining premises, fund raising, publicity and so it goes on

Volunteers join Buxton Mountain Rescue Team because they want to make a difference. If you feel the same way but are not able to commit to being on call 24 hours a day, or do not have sufficient hill skills/fitness to become an operational member, then Base Team membership may be for you. Base Team Members participate in BMRT activities such as training, fund raising and publicity but most importantly, they help keep the team fully operational.

Specific duties in which Base Team members may be involved are:

- Participating in Mountain Rescue training and exercises
- Acting as casualties for training both at base and on the hill, including being a “missing person” for Search & Rescue Dog training
- Checking and maintaining vehicles and equipment. This involves not only scheduled checks, but also servicing equipment and refuelling vehicles immediately after a rescue so that we are always ready for the next call out
- Provision of specialist or technical support such as charity management, legal issues, Web/IT, buildings maintenance, communications, fund raising and publicity
- Record keeping and administration – contact details, personal equipment registers, attendance records, qualifications, accounts etc. As well as paper based records we are moving towards a more computerised system
- Fund raising and publicity. This includes street collections in Buxton and Castleton, programme selling at Chatsworth Country Fair, attendance at other countryside events, administering collection boxes in shops and pubs. We are always looking for new opportunities to raise funds and design publicity material and anyone with experience in this field will be a valuable addition to the team
- Web presence. In addition to the public website and social media sites, we also run a Members Only site
- Maintaining premises. Our main Base is in Dove Holes and we also occupy part of the Fire Station in Buxton

These jobs are all vital to maintaining our high standards and will make you just as much a part of our successful, happy, thriving team as those who do active rescue operations. As a Base Team member you will have the opportunity to use your existing skills as well as learn new ones specific to Mountain Rescue. Even though Base Team members do not go on the hill on callouts, they are equally important in keeping the Team fully operation – all day, every day.

Our weekly training night is Thursday and we exercise at weekends, usually Sundays, a few times a year. It is very useful for Base Team members to participate in training sessions to develop knowledge of what is involved in Mountain Rescue and build up team spirit with other members, however it is not essential that you attend on a regular basis. Monday evening is the time when we carry out much of the behind the scenes activity necessary to keep the show on the road. Some tasks are monthly rather than weekly, but generally it is on a Monday evening when we do them.

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Membership of BMRT is not something to be considered lightly. Despite our being unpaid volunteers, the police and public expect a professional standard of service. We are held in high regard and maintaining this reputation depends on the full commitment of its members. As a volunteer there are no wages and you must be prepared to pay your own travelling costs, but the reward in terms of doing something worthwhile for others – maybe even helping to save someone's life – is immeasurable.

Mountain Rescue is a serious business but there is also a social side to BMRT, which is fun and builds great team spirit. We are a team of men and women with varied backgrounds who share a love of "The Great Outdoors." The strength of the team lies in the way that we work together in a spirit of friendship and mutual support.

If you are over 18 and have the skills and time to volunteer on a regular basis, then please contact us by emailing: enquiries@buxtonmountainrescue.org.uk