

MOUNTAIN RESPONDER—WHEN RECREATION AND MISFORTUNE COLLIDE

Written by Steve Achelis and published by Dog Ear Publishing
268 pages • ISBN 978-1608441075 • \$16.95
Contact Steve Achelis at Steve@RescueRigger.com or 801-560-5733
MountainResponder.com

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

NEW BOOK SHARES THE RIVETING EXPERIENCES OF A MOUNTAIN RESCUER

For Immediate Release

Contact: Steve Achelis
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Mountain Responder—When Recreation and Misfortune Collide

As the Commander of the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team, Steve Achelis participated in hundreds of backcountry rescues that frequently made the evening news. Steve and his teammates searched for people buried in avalanches and carried body parts following airplane crashes, they hung on thin cables below helicopters and rescued climbers stuck on vertical rock walls. In his book, *Mountain Responder*, Steve shares these remarkable life and death experiences.

Threaded throughout the stories are his personal thoughts and feelings—the exhilaration of saving a life, as well as the fears and uncertainties during the struggle to keep a patient alive, and the doubts and second-guessing when someone doesn't make it. The book also explores the often ordinary, sometimes bizarre combinations of mistakes and misfortune that result in people needing to be rescued in the backcountry.

Mountain Responder is available from popular online booksellers. Learn more at MountainResponder.com.

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***** AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY *****

Steve Achelis is the author of the book, *Mountain Responder—When Recreation and Misfortune Collide*. As the former commander of the search and rescue team in Salt Lake County, Utah, Steve participated in hundreds of backcountry rescues—rescues that frequently made the evening news. He is also a member of the ski patrol at Brighton Ski Resort and Wasatch Backcountry Rescue, a rescue team comprised of ski patrollers.

Steve is an EMT-I (emergency medical technician–intermediate) and a WEMT (wilderness EMT). He teaches wilderness first responder courses for the Wilderness Medical Institute of NOLS.

As an authority on technical rescues, Steve has written articles for *Wilderness Medicine* magazine, *Advanced Technical Rescue* magazine, and has presented at the *Mountain Rescue Association* and the *International Technical Rescue Symposium*.

When he isn't in the mountains, Steve is a technologist whose software products have been sold to 300,000 people in more than 100 countries. He currently publishes several websites and software programs that focus on prehospital emergency care and backcountry rescue. This includes software for EMTs and paramedics that runs on handheld computers and cell phones (eMedic.com), software that is used to illustrate and teach rope rescue (RescueRigger.com), an online quiz for emergency medical service providers (SmartMedic.com), an online quiz for wilderness medical providers (WMIquiz.com), and a website devoted to avalanche rescue and survival (BeaconReviews.com). He is also the author of *Technical Analysis from A to Z*, an investment analysis book that has been published in five languages (McGraw-Hill).

For information on all of Steve's projects, please visit Iterum.com.

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*** WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ***

Visit the home page of MountainResponder.com for links to these and additional reviews.

"This isn't a study of world-class mountaineers scaling Everest. It's about ordinary people stuck in bad situations because of their own foolishness, or bad luck, or the sheer evil of others. The stories are short, and as with eating potato chips I found it hard to stop."

Visit the home page of MountainResponder.com for a link to this Amazon.com review.

"Achelis has written a gripping first-person narrative of backcountry rescues..."

Visit the home page of MountainResponder.com to read this book review in Ski Patrol Magazine.

"...a clearly written and engaging account from an impressively humble yet impressively accomplished search and rescue leader explaining the real details of technical backcountry rescue..."

Visit the home page of MountainResponder.com for a link to this review on WildSnow.com.

"...an in-depth look at the complex operations of search and rescue and insight into the people who don't mind being called out at 3 a.m. to pull someone out of a raging creek or put themselves in harm's way..."

Visit the home page of MountainResponder.com to read this book review in the Salt Lake Tribune.

"A damn fine book! ... this book was a complete blast to read. Steve, does a great job at creating wonder and awe as he goes through the many different mountain and city rescues he was involved in ... I highly recommend this book to anyone who is at all interested in just what goes on during a rescue in the high country."

Visit the home page of MountainResponder.com to read this book review on GoodReads.com.

"You did a great job of capturing 'the moments' that you and I and other rescuers completely understand, but can never quite convey. As I read, I found that I could stand by your side as you dealt with both the practical and physiological aspects of each call. Your writing did a great job of putting me in the thick of it, yet your explanations were such that a layperson can gain an insight into what we do and why."

M. S., August KS

"I couldn't put it down. [Mountain Responder] brings to the public's attention the tremendous amount of expertise that goes into a rescue. I can hardly believe [Mr. Achelis] is still alive after so many intense challenges! I'll share the book with our local bookstores..."

C. L., Talent OR

"...the book quickly accelerates into a variety of stories [that] ... aren't bogged down with excessive technical explanations, and read simply as exhilarating rescue tales. ... Achelis reflects poignantly on the difficulties in many of his decisions and the second-guessing that haunts him. 'Crap! Should I have delayed transportation a few minutes to get the IV started or to put him on oxygen?'"

Visit the home page of MountainResponder.com for a link to this review on RockAndIce.com.

"It was great! I sat down to read it and couldn't put it down until I finished..."

T. B., Salt Lake City UT

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"I just finished Mountain Responder and I must say I've never been so engaged and impressed and entertained and informed all at once. [Mr. Achelis] strikes a well crafted balance between so many elements including personal and public, technical and nontechnical, humorous and serious, ... to name a few! [Mountain Responder] will serve many purposes, from entertaining those familiar with mountain rescue, to educating those less familiar, to inspiring some to seek out and join a local SAR organization, ..."

R. L. Corvallis OR

"Steve's writing is real, honest and gripping... He knows the topic intimately and gives voice to the feelings and emotions all responders share... A must read for anyone involved in emergency care and rescue operations. "

Visit the home page of MountainResponder.com for a link to this Amazon.com review.

"I recommend this book for anyone who spends time in the outdoors, or who would like a good read."

Visit the home page of MountainResponder.com for a link to this Amazon.com review.

"What a good idea for a book! You are a captivating writer with topics that are interesting to folks like us."

L.B., Salt Lake City, UT

"I enjoyed it until the very last page!"

F. K., Germany

"Great read. Only problem is I couldn't put it down. I read the first nine chapters right after I received it and finished it the next day... Anyway, GREAT READ!"

T. W., Lore City, OH

"... it is hard to put down. Steve has a wonderful writing style. His personal reflections on the nature of SAR team members is spot on. There have been a lot of times when I read a passage and thought, "Wow, that was well said!"

J. S., Ogden UT

"Fantastic book!"

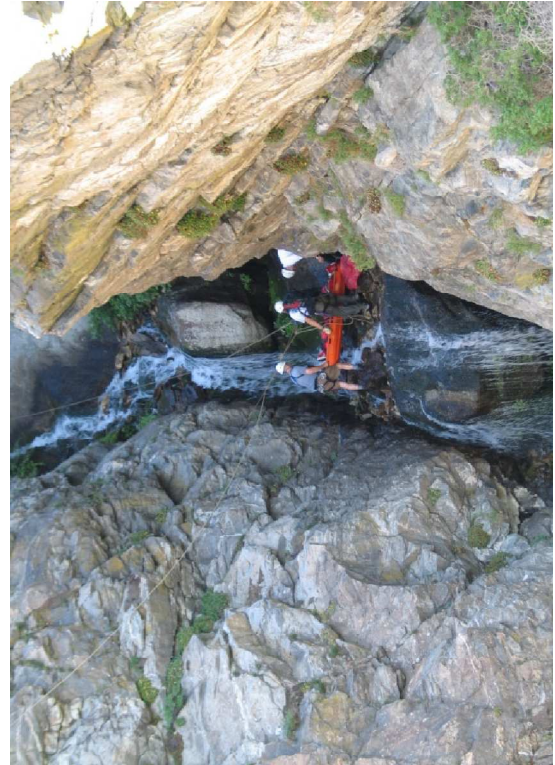
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*** PHOTOGRAPHS ***

Mountain Responder contains links to hundreds of photos that were taken during the actual rescues. Readers can view the photos online using special “story codes” that are contained within the book. Media that review *Mountain Responder* can publish higher resolution versions of these photos. Here are four sample photos.



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***** PRODUCT DETAILS *****

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***** POSSIBLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS *****

1. What activities were people doing when they needed to be rescued?
2. Were these people foolhardy to get into trouble?
3. You've seen a lot of death (40+ fatalities). How does that affect you?
4. In the book, you mention that the patients were typically "stable or dead." Why was that the case?
5. How does it feel to save a life? To lose a life?
6. How do you locate someone who has been buried by an avalanche?
7. What is your most memorable rescue?
8. Tell me about working the Elizabeth Smart case.
9. How does providing medical care in the mountains differ from in the city?
10. What should people do to avoid needing to be rescued?
11. Why did you write this book?