

Thomas Evans began caving in 2005 and was hooked on vertical caving instantaneously. As he studied single rope technique for cave access he realized rescue skills are an important part of a rigger's tool belt, so he started studying rescue material independently and attended trainings through NCRC, BCCR, and ESAR. It was clear through exposure to different rigging instructors that many ideas were propagated in trainings that often had an unknown origin. During graduate school he realized that the skills necessary in the discovery of new knowledge could and should be applied to technical rescue subjects to improve the quality and quantity of information available to a rigger (both student and teacher alike), and provide a reference that could be cited for why different techniques are used. After stating these ideas at ITRS 2010, he began his own testing program to further the science of technical rescue through targeted analytically robust research.

Aaron Stavens has been active with the National Cave Rescue Commission since 2003 and achieved instructor status in 2010. He has also been a member of the Snoqualmie Pass Volunteer Ski Patrol since 2006. In his professional life, Aaron is a Software Architect for NetMotion Wireless, Inc. in Seattle, Washington.