



OCHILS MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

Founded 1971 - A Scottish Charity SC024517. Affiliated to the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland



It's all about saving lives

OMRT RESOURCE PACK



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Up until 1971 rescue in the Ochils was the usual ad hoc affair with whoever was available, but out of this came the idea of a Rescue Team. The driving force was Major Ramsay Tullis, a local farmer and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Clackmannan. Initially we called ourselves The Ochils Hills Rescue Team, but later were renamed The Ochils Mountain Rescue Team.

We had about 30 members, all good climbers and experienced hill walkers. Despite this we still had to gain experience in stretcher lowering/raising techniques to cope with the very steep-sided gorges of the Ochils. To discourage the “Glory Seekers” we conducted a daylong line search among the peat hags up in the Maddy Moss area. In this way we managed to keep a good team of enthusiasts willing to put up with the “lousy” bits of Mountain Rescue! Our first rescue was when a local shepherd was blown over the cliffs in the Kirk Craig’s area.

The initial HQ was a cell in the old Alva Police Station until we moved to the new Scout Hall at Menstrie, before moving to Tillicoultry police office. As the team grew, moved to bigger premises in Clackmannan Council’s Plant Nursery complex between Menstrie and Alva. A new custom-built Post is now open just outside Fishcross.

Equipment was very basic in the early days. For a start we had no money. MacLarens Sports gave us a sleeping bag and two rucksacks. Scobbie Sports ordered two reels of hawser-laid rope. A concert by The Corries got us our first MacInnes Stretcher and further financial support came from Alloa Round Table, the Guides and Scouts. We purchased 12 jackets with quilted waistcoats, all bright yellow, and that was the first personal equipment.

From its inception the team train’s on the first Sunday of each month. We were the only team in Scotland at that time to have a regular training programme, which continues to this day with the addition of the first Wednesday evening of the month.

Over the years we’ve been involved in several hundred incidents but the most unusual has to be the search for our own equipment, following a break-in at the Post. We received a report that some people had been “camping” in the hills above the post around the time of the break-in. A textbook line search revealed the remains of the campsite and a Social Security card. A visit from the Boys in Blue uncovered a veritable Aladdin’s Cave, including all our gear!

① OMRT:- *History*



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The Ochils Mountain Rescue Team is part of the Central Scotland Mountain Rescue Group (along with Lomond and Killin MRT's) and form part of the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland, the umbrella organisation for all Mountain and Cave Rescue in Scotland.

Scottish Mountain Rescue Teams are called out by their respective Police Forces and are available for callout 24hrs a day 365 days a year for operations in remote, mountainous and hazardous terrain.

The Ochils Mountain Rescue Team comprise of 38 volunteers who are fully trained in Search and Rescue with backgrounds in mountaineering and hill walking. We have two Mountain Instructors and eight Mountain Leaders. Six fully qualified Rock Climbing instructors and ten trained search managers. All team members are first aid trained with 20 of the team trained to MR Cas Care standard (equivalent to EMT). We also have four qualified doctors in the team.

Our highly committed team members would be of limited use without the appropriate equipment and knowledge, especially under the difficult conditions that we sometimes face. We conduct a regular training programme consisting of one evening and one Sunday a month with two full weekends a year whatever the weather. Not only does this training ensure our skill base remains high, but allows us to develop and improve as a team.

The equipment we have is quite extensive, covering us for all eventualities. Our Landrover is fitted out with stretchers, ropes, rigging kit, vacuum mattress, casbag, first aid equipment, defibrillator, oxygen, entonox and radios and twelve team members are off road driver trained. We also run a rescue support vehicle from which we conduct incident and search management. As with all Scottish Mountain Rescue Teams, we have a stand alone VHF radio system and a dedicated team frequency enabling valuable communication between all team members and vehicles.

In the event of an incident we can call on a number of additional assets should they be required. Within the Ochils team we have a search and rescue dog and handler. Cairn (our dog) is also a member of SARDA from whom we can call if more dogs are required. For major incidents we are able to call on the Killin and Lomond teams who have similar capabilities to us and can supply a further three 4x4's and two command and control vehicles. Should the three Central Scotland teams not be enough we can also call on the two RAF teams, equipment and vehicles. RN and RAF SAR Helicopters can be requested through ARCC Kinloss who co ordinate aircraft from Prestwick or Lossimouth. Helicopters are especially useful to assist in searching large areas and casualty evacuation from remote areas and where speed is essential.

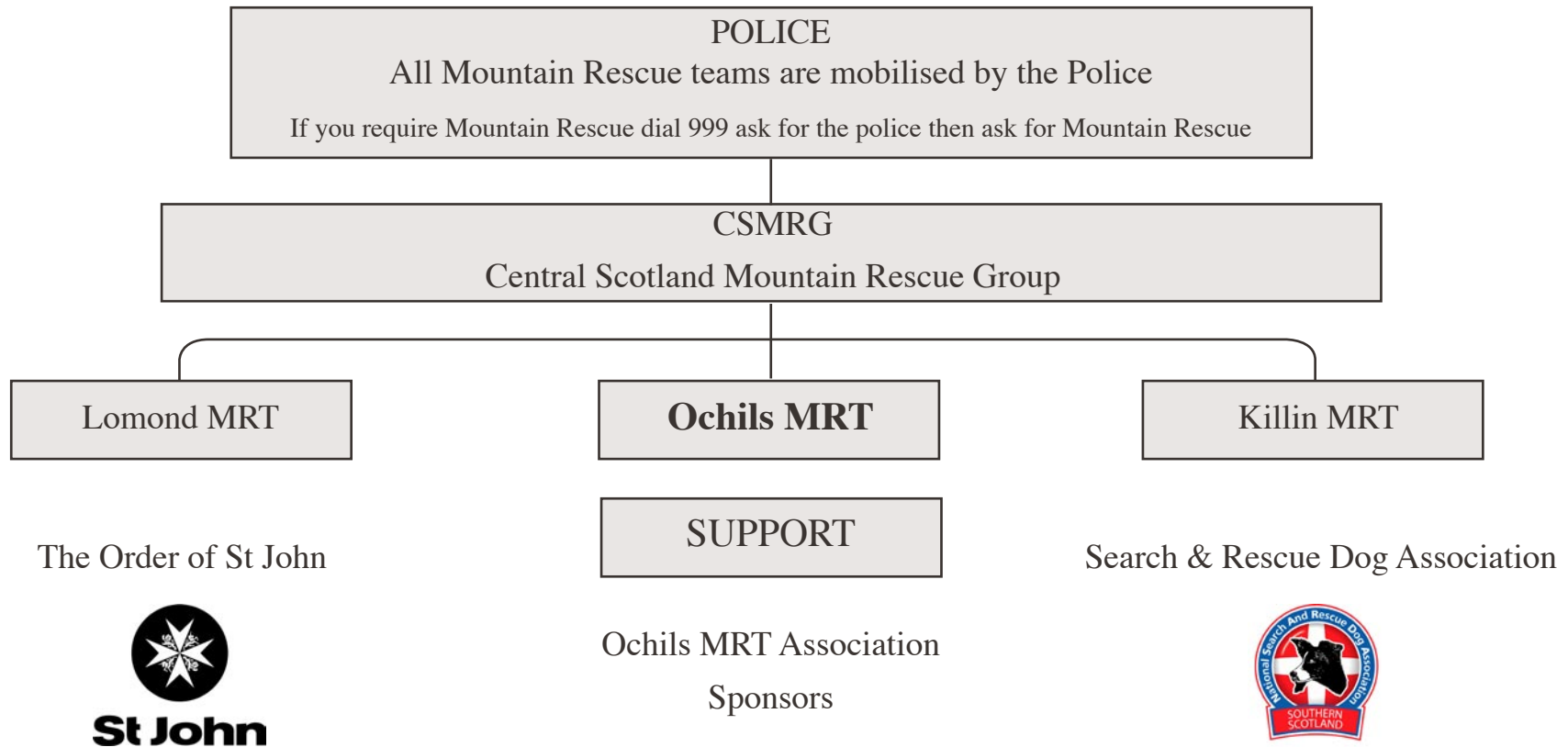
② OMRT:- *Capability*



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③ **OMRT:- Mountain Rescue Organisation**



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Our Team's vital role in the community has to be underpinned by regular and comprehensive training and the rehearsal of all our skills. To achieve this, our main programme centres around two, monthly sessions which take place on a mid-week evening or night and a weekend day. Further training is achieved on two weekend training events that take us into unfamiliar terrain and also involve elements of adventure training. We also involve members of the public as volunteer casualties to ensure our practice is as realistic as possible.

Personnel are also sent away on national events such as Search Management, Snow & Avalanche awareness, Radio seminars, UK Search & Rescue conferences and we offer financial support to team members who undertake mountain leader training.

The Training Team devise a range of work front and engage a range of other professional rescue personnel. We also regularly train with personnel from the search dogs – SARDA and Royal Navy Air Sea Rescue squadron based at RN Gannet, Prestwick.

Staff from your organisation are welcome to attend a training event as volunteer casualties.

④ OMRT:- Training



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Boots and Outdoor Clothing



1st Aid, Emergency Shelter and Safety Equipment



Helmet, Harness and Climbing Hardware



Rucksack



Navigation and Comms



Ice Axe, Crampons, Snow Shovel, Avalanche Transceiver and Probe

⑤ OMRT:- *Equipment (Personal)*



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Ropes



Rigging hardware and Slings



Torches and Lamps



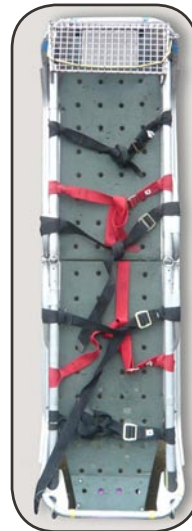
1st Aid, Splints and Collars



Oxygen, Entonox, Defibrillator and Little Dragon



Stretcher



Vacuum Mattress



Casualty Bag



⑥ OMRT:- Equipment (Team)



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Incident management is usually carried out by the Team Leader and/or the Deputy team leader and conducted from a static or mobile base.

Our communications van is fitted out for the sole purpose of communications and management operations with a comprehensive radio system.

The UKSAR radio network we use has the ability to transmit data on predetermined channels allowing us to communicate between ourselves and other emergency services.



A recent development to the radios allows GPS data to be transmitted back to our mobile base showing the position of our members.

The Team have been heavily involved in the development of Search Management Software through the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland.

This software allows the Incident Manager access to maps, but also provides the facility to record search areas, sightings, proposed routes and links with GPS data devices.



⑦ OMRT:- *Incident Mangement*



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Ochils MRT Association is a non operational section of the Ochils Mountain Rescue Team.

Established to provide essential support the operational members of the team

If you wish to support this worthwhile cause and join the Ochils MRT Association please return the application form.

Title	<input type="text"/>	Surname	<input type="text"/>	First Name	<input type="text"/>
Address & Postcode	<input type="text"/>			Home Phone	<input type="text"/>
				Mobile Phone	<input type="text"/>
				email	<input type="text"/>

Return To :- Ochils MRT Association, Ochils Mountain Rescue Post, Alexandra Road, Fishcross, Alloa, FK10 1HR

Team Web site:- www.omrt.org.uk

Team email - info@omrt.org.uk

⑧ **OMRT:- Ochils MRT Association**