

# MOUNTAIN RESCUE READER



Read the article then write the letter of the person that fits the description below. Which person

made a change in his career plans?	1.	
has parents involved in a similar field	2.	
had an unexpected experience early in his career?	3.	
believes that a strong character is as important as ability?	4.	
has a plan for the future?	5.	
mentions the tough training program volunteers undertake?	6.	
says that he is sometimes afraid?	7.	
says that there is competition for his type of job?	8.	
mentions criticism sometimes made about the rescue team?	9.	
received encouragement from someone?	10.	11.
mentions the positive emotion which the job can give	12.	
points out how tiring the work can be?	13.	
suggest volunteers are expected to do more than one task?	14.	15.

## CENTRAL BOWLANSIRE MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

**A Paul Barron - Deputy Team Leader.** Our rescue team is made up of volunteers who give their time to help people in trouble on the mountains. We're looking for people who can not only perform their jobs well, but who also have the mental toughness to deal with the high pressure, life-and-death situations we sometimes encounter. The job isn't all excitement, though: even if you're a first aid expert, say, you still have to take your turn doing things like keeping the headquarters clean. Sadly, some people put us down as amateurs because our team is comprised of volunteers, but the truth is that all of our staff are extremely well trained and very dedicated.

**B Allan Carter - Ambulance Paramedic** I come from a family of doctors, but I came here to be a paramedic because I wanted a more hands-on experience at the scene of an emergency. As an ambulance paramedic, I deal with all kinds of emergencies almost every day. There are a lot of people trying to get into this field and it's tough, so I consider myself pretty lucky to be here doing something I love. On my very first day, I remember being called out on a really serious emergency. I couldn't believe it when I was left to handle it on my own, but everything went well and I managed to get everyone taken care of. It gave me confidence and I know that I can handle anything now.

**C Nick Holmes - New Recruit** I'm at the local university in town. I wanted to help with something worthwhile and spoke to a university counsellor who convinced to join the local rescue team. He said that, since the town is surrounded by mountains where students go hiking and camping, I could make a real difference by volunteering for mountain rescues. It can get pretty dangerous when we're out in the

mountains during a snowstorm, or on difficult terrain trying to save someone, but I always try to control my fear. I could be saving one of my very own classmates, and that's important to me.

**D Paul Barrington - Dog Trainer** I left veterinary school to come here and train dogs used for search and rescue. In fact, it was my wife's idea, because she knew I wasn't very happy about what I was doing then. We're both pleased about how it's turned out, and she often says I should have done this sooner. I hope one day to open a dog training school, so that all the mountain rescue teams in the county will be able to train and take care of rescue dogs properly. The dogs are an important part of the team, and we wouldn't be as successful as we are in search and rescue without their help.

**E John Dowle Trainer/Park Ranger** The most important ability for any team member is that they have to be a competent mountaineer. Additionally, each member must be able to do certain jobs outside their area of expertise, such as radio operations, helicopter procedures, mountain environments and first aid. Callouts and training can take place on any terrain, in any weather, day or night, and can mean long periods outdoors, exposed to the elements. This is to make sure our members are ready for anything. Our team members soon realize the amount of commitment which is required to be a member of our team. I remember when I was a new recruit, I worked so hard and was so exhausted that I could practically fall asleep standing up. But at the end of the day, we all that there's nothing better than the wonderful feeling we have after a successful rescue. It's just amazing.