

THE KARABINER

CONNECTING THE TECHNICAL RESCUE INDUSTRY

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ITRA Assessor Class

Message from the Board

We have come a long way since ITRA was just an idea. In under two years, we have created a truly global association that already is providing significant benefits to its members such as collaboration and networking. The backbone of ITRA has been the development of global qualifications across rope, swiftwater, confined space, companion animal and structural collapse (USAR) and a flexible training curriculum, all enabled through cutting edge database technology (ITM). As a non-profit, we work with all those that want to be involved. We have been very fortunate to have a large range of companies that have been etched in history as foundation sponsors, as well

as iconic brands such as CMC, Petzl, and Roco Rescue as annual premium sponsors. We have been privileged to have so many leading experts help us to establish ITRA in a voluntary capacity such as the steering committee and current Board of Directors. Without their support, we would not be in the strong position we are in today, and we thank them for their contribution.

Going forward, we will be rolling out additional ITRA Assessor Courses and new working groups have been formed to work on revising and developing assessment tools, discrepancies lists, assessment sub-charters, defining the

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Message from the Board Continued

learning objectives, and the recommending changes to the qualifications. It is uncommon for associations such as ours to have every member who offered to support a working group granted that opportunity. With over 60 applicants (which is about a quarter of our regular membership) for working groups, this was no easy feat and we appreciate that not everyone got to be on their preferred working group subject. Working groups have been established for rope, swiftwater, tactical, confined space, USAR as well as taxonomy working group that will have the challenge to create common global terminology across all these disciplines. Naturally, the recommendations of the working groups will go out to the wider membership to have their say, as well as needing to have Board approval. As a member-driven organisation, we encourage you to engage in any consultation opportunities. It took some time, but we are pleased that in consultation with our members, we have finalised the Assessment Charter that provides the foundation policies and philosophy around

our assessment. We are very encouraged in the significant demand for independent assessment and this is an area of key focus for the Board in the coming months. The generosity of a Petzl Foundation grant will help us tremendously in achieving more registered assessors before the end of 2020. This newsletter marks a milestone for ITRA as with so much going on, we understand the need to ensure members are kept up to date. We also will be placing all the Board meeting minutes on ITM as part of ensuring transparency and communication with our members. Thank you to Randy MacLean, John Klaphake and the CMC marketing team who put up their hand to manage THE KARABINER, the association's official newsletter committed to connecting the technical rescue industry worldwide. If you have a story or article that you would like to share, please contact the editorial team.

Thank you all for sharing our vision and we look forward to your feedback on our inaugural newsletter.

ITRA News

The International Technical Rescue Association has had a busy end of the year. Board of Director's Chair Steve Glassey, Harken Industrial's Tom Wood, and ISC Sales Manager Martin Barnett presented at the International Technical Rescue Symposium this year in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The event brought industry leaders from all around the world to learn, share, debate, and socialize with like-minded individuals. The presentation focused heavily on "what" ITRA is. This quickly became one of the hot topics later that evening at the hospitality suite.

Post symposium marked the first ever ITRA Assessor program which brought together fourteen candidates from around the globe that included Randy MacLean – Total Rescue, Craig McClure – The Crackerjack Group, Derek Calloway – Linville

Search and Rescue, Jim Coffey – Esprit Whitewater, Wayne Chapman – CMC Rescue, James Falchetto – Traks Pro, Micah Rush – Peak Rescue, Jonathan Bertsch, Kevin Koprek – Rigging For Rescue, Kevin Lunnie – Vector Rescue, James Croswell – Vector Rescue, Chris Carlsen – Roco Rescue, Justin Spain – Resolution Rescue, and Martin Barnett – ISC Wales.

It is important to note that five out of the fourteen that were accepted into the Assessor Program were also graduates of the Level 3 Rope training and assessment that took place in Redmond, OR this past August 2019 – first of its kind in North America.

<http://itrsonline.org/itra-syllabus/>

Emergency Response Driving

The Board has approved for an Emergency Response Driving qualification to be scoped. If you are a qualified and experienced emergency response driving instructor

and interested to assist this project, please email info@itra.international

Assessor News

The Board of Directors met earlier this month to work through a number of matters to support the enhancement of the ITRA assessment system.

Provisional Assessors

We are thankful to a small group of provisional assessors who have assisted in the operationalization of our assessment system. Now that we have a pool of registered assessors available, the Board has approved the following conditions for provisional assessors:

- Assessment events may only take place on a case-by-case basis as approved by the Board
- Provisional assessors shall only be used where the use of registered assessors is not feasible
- Assessment results are subject to peer review approval (as directed by the respective working group convener) prior to official results being issued
- Candidates must be informed prior to assessment their results are not immediately available and are conditional to peer review approval
- Provisional assessor appointments cease on 31 December 2020

Direct Entry

- Level 3 direct entry assessments are to be no less than two days in duration.
- The ITRA Assessment Fee (USD\$100) is payable for each level including the pre-requisite level (i.e. direct entry level 3 assessment fee is \$300)

Practice Notes

The Board may also issue Practice Notes on ITM (Documents) to assist with interim or detailed instructions on the interpretation of assessment requirements. These are

required to be met as applicable during assessments. Practice Notes will be provided for all members to access via ITM. Working Groups may assist with the development of Practice Notes.

Skill/Gap Assessments

ITRA has decided to no longer use the term "skill gap" in event titles. We are now suggesting that such events are referred to as "Pre-Assessment Workshops".

Assessors Course Review

Thank you to all those who contributed to the review of the inaugural assessor course. The following recommendations from the course review were approved by the Board:

- Increase course to three days to allow for more micro-assessments
- Need to have assessment scenario/ injects that create challenges for the assessor
- Further work is required on the charter, discrepancies, assessment tools etc.
- Strategically look at online theory testing (i.e. moodle) as part of knowledge assessment
- Participants to bring laptop to gain experience using ITM
- ITM training environment needs development (mock data entry)
- Additional 2-3 Board Members trained to deliver the ITRA Assessor Courses
- Replace skills validation (pre-assessment) with attestation
- Assessors need to be evaluated for their assessment competency (i.e. ability to assess) as part of course requirements.

Future Assessor Courses

Directors met in December 2019 to develop and schedule future assessor programs. An ITRA Assessor Course has been scheduled

for 18-20 February in Chang Mai, Thailand. This course is already full. The next ITRA Assessor Course is to be held in Dubai, UAE on 11-13 February 2020. This course is open to all ITRA Instructors across all subjects (rope, swiftwater, confined space, USAR etc). Though the course is sponsored, assessor candidates must meet their own travel and accommodation expenses etc. and pay upon course completion a USD\$50 assessor application fee, and if accepted as a registered assessor pay an annual assessor registration fee (USD\$150). Placements are limited to 16 participants. If your organisation is interested in becoming a host sponsor of an ITRA Assessor Course please email info@itra.international for further information (even if you have expressed an interest previously too).

Registered Assessors

Craig McClure
James Crosswell
James Falchetto
Kevin Koprek
Kevin Lunnie
Martin Barnett
Micah Rush
Randy MacLean
Steve Glassey
Wayne Chapman
Jim Coffey

Provisional Assessors

Tom Gwilliam
Bill Proctor
Richard Delaney
Bas Den Neijssel
Mike Harvey
Tom Wood

Inert Confined Space Rescue Launched in Thailand



The CR Asia, KRP and Sea Air Thai Teams

Level 1, Level 1N and 2 confined space were suitable for clients.

Craig, who is an experienced and highly skilled rope rescue instructor delivered the rope rescue portion, with his lovely wife Putt translating, and provided an expert opinion and options for the rescue techniques and methods for confined space and inert rescue. Having both ITRA instructors with different background working together proved to be a valuable experience and much encouraged.

Peter Smith and James Harrison of CR Asia, who provide inert entry services among other services throughout the South East Asia region, kindly provided their training facility, the inert entry equipment and their professional skills and knowledge for the workshop. Without the support of companies such as CR Asia, we would not be able to develop technical rescue competencies, so a big thanks to the CR Asia team.

What is an inert space?

The inert space is typically found inside a reactor or column in an oil refinery or chemical plant that has material inside known as catalyst. The catalyst is suspended on trays, or beds inside the reactor. When the catalyst requires removal, and is exposed to atmosphere, it can spontaneously combust. To eliminate the possibility of combustion and fire, the reactor is purged with nitrogen while the catalyst is being removed.

The removal of catalyst is done under very controlled conditions by specialist technicians who enter the reactor wearing an Anti-Panic helmet (shown in the photos), which has incorporated

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Top entrance to a reactor – approximately 24 inches in diameter



Typical reactor column, 80m high

On December the 6th to 8th 2019, ITRA instructors Steve Fraser (KRP, Thailand) and Craig Raskin (Sea Air Thai, Thailand) conducted the first ITRA Level 1N Confined Space Entry (Inert) [ICN] course, combined with a rope rescue level 1 and confined space entry level 1 workshop at the CR Asia training facility

in Rayong, Thailand.

Steve, who is experienced in industrial rescue, and is on the ITRA Confined Space working group, delivered the course in a workshop environment to skilled and experienced people which gave him the opportunity to validate if the ITRA learning objectives in the

Inert Confined Space Rescue Launched in Thailand Continued

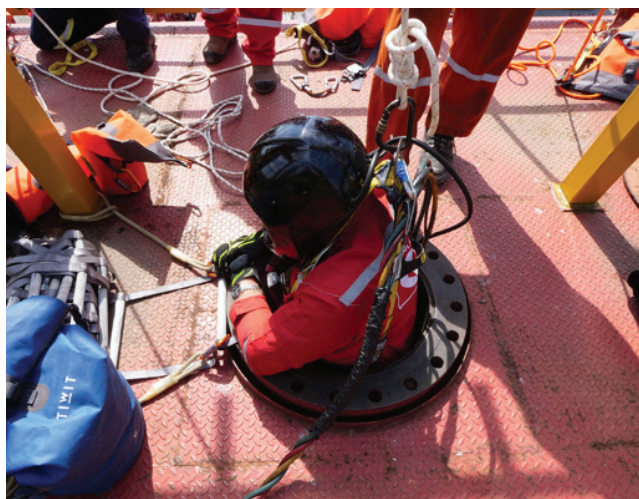
a breathing air mask. Air is supplied from compressed air cylinders via an air control panel and delivered to the helmet through twin airline hoses (primary/secondary). Additionally, a 2ltr emergency air cylinder is connected and carried by the entrant and an emergency Egress airline, or EEL, is connected to a separate air supply in case of primary/secondary air failure. The system includes fully integrated communications between the entrant and the panel operator outside the inert space. It is vital that instructors for this environment and the associated equipment have actual experience in inert operations.

Recently, new regulations issued by the American Petroleum Institute (API) stipulates that all entrants must wear an integrated helmet/respirator assembly, sometimes called a clamshell, that prevents the entrant from removing the helmet in time of distress.

We are happy to report the ITRA Inert rescue learning objectives are well aligned to the API requirements.



Rescuer wearing an anti-panic helmet, primary/secondary airline, EEL and egress bottle being lowered on a rescue line and ID.



Rescuer in the inert space retrieving the unconscious casualty, both in anti-panic helmets and both on umbilical airlines.

Instructor News

New Instructor & Regular Member Applications

From 1 January 2020, any new applications to become an ITRA instructor will be referred for initial review by the respective working groups. Those also newly applying to become a regular member of ITRA will also be required to hold an ITRA

qualification from 1 January 2020.

Reminder: when an instructor generates an attendance certificate on ITM, they will be charged \$5.00 USD per certificate and invoiced on a quarterly basis. This has been in effect since August 1, 2019.

What is a QR Code?



QR Code

The low-down on QR-Codes

QR Codes offer a convenient way of allowing anyone to check your current training and qualifications status within ITRA. By pointing a smart phone in camera mode at your QR Code anyone is able to go to and check your record immediately.

The beauty of a QR code is that you don't have to remember long website addresses, it's all contained in that code.

So, what is a QR Code

QR stands for Quick Response. It's a block of black and white (normally) oblongs and square patterns that are unique with no two alike. Among other things, a QR Code can be automatically coded to contain a specific web page or any other piece of information.

When you point your smart phone at a QR Code, your phone

then interprets that QR Code and quickly converts it to a specific web address. With the click of the screen it will then open up that page within a browser.

In order to present the student credentials, the ITRA membership must be current.

You can copy and paste your QR code from your profile page. Just left click over the QR code, copy image and then paste (as picture) into your email signature, CV, proposals or your own company's certificates.



Screenshot

ITM tips and updates

Integrated Training Management (ITM) is a cloud-based training administration platform developed by Mission Control in New Zealand. It has been critical in providing us a fit for purpose database infrastructure and is used by public safety organisations around the world. All paid members have access to ITM which provides secure access to our documents and training records.

This year we have made a number of enhancements including:

- Record of Learning for recording student achievement
- Website integration including directory of practitioners
- Website calendar of events with opt in/out and public registration
- Annual premium sponsor logo embedding on the QR credential check

In the new year, we are planning the following developments:

- SMS functionality so instructors can send their students SMS (fee payable)
- SMS Functionality will be available in early 2020. The

cost will be \$5.00 USD a quarter if used in that period, and a flat global rate of .75c USD per SMS per recipient.

- Providing the option to issue non-signed certificates so they are entirely electronic.
- Development of course skill sheets that are pre-populated with student and learning objective details. This new capability will be supplemented with a new fee-based data entry service to reduce administration requirements on instructors.
- Adding your company URL to the website directory records.



Can't locate your name on the ITRA directory?

Visit www.itra.international/directory. Still can't locate your name? Easy, log into ITM and under Personal>Preferences you can enable the setting so you can be found in the public directory.

Member in Focus: Vector Rescue

First let me introduce myself. My name is James Croswell and I'm one of the principals of Vector Rescue. I was first exposed to technical rescue while I was at school in Maine through several rock climbing programs and in the wilderness EMS field via a local company out of Portland. For the last 20 years though, my technical rescue focus has primarily been fire service related. I am currently assigned to the Heavy Rescue company in the City of Danbury, Connecticut. While we perform all manner of rescues I have a particular affinity for rope.

1. Why did you guys join ITRA? Why did you become a founding sponsor?

Without disparaging other organizations, the draw of the ITRA was really born of frustration with the way some things are currently done in industry. My partner Kevin and I joined ITRA because we believe in the mission. The idea of a global database of practitioners and instructors, the ability to easily collaborate with others and the idea of accountability and making sure practitioners, instructors and assessors maintain relevancy in the industry through a re-certification process are values we hold in high esteem. The vision and mission of the ITRA very much align with the way we operate and how we are trying to structure our business. To that end, Vector Rescue elected to become a founding sponsor.

2. How is this going to fit into your current business model?

The flexibility afforded in delivering training is something that really appeals to us. At this point our clients are mainly

fire service entities, many of them having 'older' and more limited equipment. We can go into a department and teach to their gear and needs and still meet the objective-based ITRA criteria as well as any applicable NFPA standard and at the same time we can introduce new equipment, concepts, and methods. The flexibility allows us to deliver fully relevant training as well as showcase new ideas.

3. Where do you see ITRA in 3-5 years?

In five years I'd like to see ITRA as the global standard for best practice in technical rescue. In my experience the fire service, especially in the Northeastern US has been very resistant to change. With names such as Petzl, CMC, and Rock Exotica as sponsors, hopefully ITRA quickly gains traction.

4. Do you plan on offering additional courses outside of Rope?

Interesting question. The short answer is yes. Currently we also have curriculum developed for confined space and heavy vehicle stabilization. While I can't give away all our secrets I can say we've got our hands full with some really exciting projects.

5. What did you take away from the inaugural assessor program in NM?

I was immediately impressed with the people and organizations present at the course. It was evident those in attendance were dedicated and passionate about technical rescue. To have such a group supporting the ITRA and forming the base cadre of assessors is something really exciting. While there were many businesses and

individual entities represented it was quite evident there exists a profound willingness to collaborate and work together, only exemplifying the character of the individuals and organizations represented. With this as the foundation of the ITRA I see some really exciting potential.



Vector Rescue

Safety Alerts

On October 25, 2019 Disaster was averted in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada when extremely high winds took over a suspended swing stage causing one worker to be tossed from the platform activating his fall arrest system.

The winds were so severe that Environment Canada issued wind warnings for most of the province with extreme gusts that reached over 100 km/hr in the Edmonton Region and up to 130km/hr further south in Calgary, AB.

The high winds caused the swing stage to aggressively crash against the side of the Stantec Tower in downtown Edmonton. The loud crashing sounds of breaking glass and concerned onlookers forced a bystander to take out their phone and video record the entire event including the moment when one of the construction workers was thrown over the railings and arrested from his fall protection system. Fortunately, the second worker remained on the platform and was able to assist the fire department in securing the swing stage from further swinging

and damage.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/stantec-tower-scaffold-fire-rescue-1.5336068>

Key takeaways:

1. Importance of thorough, consistent training specific to work type.
2. Proper Equipment selection, inspections, use, and maintenance.
3. Awareness of surroundings including environment ie. Wind.

Remember if you are an ITRA instructor or assessor, and a safety incident occurs on an associated activity, please complete a TechSafe report. TechSafe reports can be submitted through ITM, under documents. Over time, we hope the safety alerts will come from lessons learned from our own members. Members are also welcome to lodge TechSafe reports to assist our global safety lesson management system.

Instructors and Assessors Corner

Saturday November 16, 2019 was a monumental milestone for the association as the Board finalized assessor appointments. Participants that recently completed the Assessor Program as well fulfilled the requirements as per the ITRA Assessor standard were appointed Registered Assessors. ITRA Registered Assessors have the ability to assess participants at the level of which they are able to instruct. ie. A Registered Assessor – Rope that currently is a Level 2 Rope Rescue Practitioner is able to assess to the Level 2 standard.. That same day, ITRA also released the names of our new Working Groups for each discipline. ITRA had 62 applications for Working Groups which is fantastic to see members wanting to engage and support the vision.

The Terms of Reference and working group member list is available on ITM under documents.

Working Groups have the following targets:

Item	Date
Assessment tools completed ASAP	No later than 1-Apr-20
Discrepancies list revision	1-Apr-20
Assessment Charter revision	1-Apr-20
Qualification revision drafted	1-Jul-20
Qualification (version 5) approved (effective 1-Jan-2021)	1-Dec-20
Learning Objectives defined	1-Dec-20
Taxonomy drafted	1-Jul-20
Taxonomy approved	1-Dec-20

About the International Technical Rescue Association

Purpose: Why ITRA

- To promote international best practices and standards for technical rescue.
- To improve the global portability and recognition of professional rescue qualifications.
- To provide local flexibility in delivering technical rescue training curriculum.

Vision: Our Hope

- A collaborative and professional global technical rescue industry.

Mission: What we do

- Recognise and document locally delivered training according to global best practice.
- Provide Independent competency-based assessment for instructor and technical rescuers.
- Maintain a global central database of training records for members.
- Share safety related lessons learned from technical rescue activities to prevent harm.

Values: How we do it

Accountability:

- Training and assessment systems developed by industry for industry.
- A non-profit entity that is driven by and accountable to its membership.
- Instructors and Practitioners maintain their currency through robust re-certification process.
- Members acting professional and accountable under a Code of Conduct.

Transparency:

- Meaningful and genuine consultation with members on our work.
- Active use of social media to engage and keep members informed.
- Annual disclosure of our activities and finances to our members.
- Public register of qualified practitioners, instructors and assessors.

Working together:

- To share knowledge, skills, and experiences across all disciplines of technical rescue.
- Establish an international reporting system to highlight safety concerns within the industry.
- To review and enhance rescue and rescue related training and assessment standards.
- To foster collaborative interaction and professional development within the industry.



Comments, concerns and Compliments?

We have established a new email to connect members with the board to share their comments, concerns and compliments. This email goes to Beth Henry, Deputy Chair of the ITRA Board who can raise your thoughts or feedback to the Board directly. Simply email:

comments@itra.international

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Subscription

THE KARABINER is sent to all current associate, regular and fellow members of ITRA. Membership options are available from the website. All issues of THE KARABINER are also catalogued on the ITRA database (ITM) for members to access current and previous issues.

Peer review

This newsletter may decline, defer, review and/or edit submissions at its discretion; however THE KARABINER is not an academic journal that uses a blind peer review process.

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Disclaimer

Any information contained within this newsletter is not a substitute for training from a qualified instructor. Techniques outlined are not necessarily endorsed by ITRA and should be evaluated for whether they are appropriate or safe for the context used. ITRA accepts no responsibility for any injury, death or loss associated with the information contained in this newsletter. Always follow local legal requirements and equipment manufacturer instructions.

ITRA would like to thank our Annual Premium Sponsors



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Public Safety Institute

Kiwi Resource Protection

Figure 9 UK

American Alpine Institute

R3 Rescue for River Runners

Rope Rescue Norway

Animal Search & Rescue (ASAR)

Wilderness Rescue International

Thai Rope Access Services Co. Ltd

Rigging for Rescue

Sea Air Thai Co. Ltd

DIRA-Group

Vector Rescue

Rope Lab

Precision Vertical

Harken Industrial

Total Rescue

SAFETRIPP

Industrial Safety & Rescue

Rope Rescue Netherlands

The Cracker Jack Group

Technical Rope & Rescue

Peak Rescue

Rigging Lab Academy

Lynden Training Center

Resolution Rescue

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Capital Technical Rescue & Safety

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ROJAM

Outdoor Safety

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Height Safety Expert

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