

Letters to the editor

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Mountain rescue

A week ago, I fell on a very steep trail just below the saddle of Organ Peak. I had bashed my head and tumbled about 12 feet. I dared not move for fear of falling farther down the steep incline and into a cactus abyss. My hiking partner shored me up as best she could and called 911. Three hours later, as the final sunset lights were falling behind the horizon, I heard voices, sweet voices, of the Organ Mountain Rescue team.

Though I was horrified of my injuries and hurting all over, the minute this premier team arrived, I knew I was in good hands. They cleaned my face off, assessed me, and placed me in the litter for the long journey down the mountain. The first part was a technical rescue as it was treacherous, steep terrain in the dark. They belayed me for the first two-four hours, all the while they were careening into chollas, prickly pears and boulders without complaining. They were risking injuries and lot of pain to extricate me from the mountain. Seven hours later, we arrived at Modoc Mine site where their Hummer transported me the rest of the way down the hill to the ambulance.

This group is so stellar, so professional, so compassionate, so competent! I had no idea what a technical rescue really entailed and the coordination, dynamics, etc, of evacuating a subject from a mountain in the dark. This is a volunteer group that sacrifices their time, efforts, and lives to save hikers like myself.

Thanks to my hiking partner and all the people involved in this rescue operation.

If you would like to donate or sponsor a group, the Organ Mountain Rescue squad comes HIGHLY recommended. Organ Mountain Technical Rescue Web site is www.zianet.com/omtrs

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