

## **UNITED KINGDOM SEARCH AND RESCUE (UKSAR) OPERATORS GROUP**

### **REPORT OF MEETING OF 8 JULY 2004-08-03**

1. The minutes of the meeting of 23 February 2004 were agreed.
2. It was suggested that there should be a member's site set up on the UKSAR website to try to encourage members to keep in touch and as a way of generating future ideas and highlighting problems. Members were asked to submit items to the site in particular pictures and information on their particular organisations.
3. Funding was being sought to produce generic safety literature and advice to cover UKSAR activities.
4. The Mountain Rescue Committee of England and Wales provided the Group with an update of progress following the Early Day Motion into the true cost of providing mountain, lowland and cave rescue in England and Wales. Following on from this briefing it was noted that it was increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers within the UK. UKSAR as a whole relied upon the use of volunteers across the country as front line providers of search and rescue. The Group agreed that it should seek to set up a volunteer forum with representatives from all areas of SAR to discuss all the current issues affecting volunteer groups within the UK.
5. The Group were provided with a presentation on the Civil Contingencies Bill and its possible effect on UKSAR.
6. The Group were provided with a report on the work of the UKSAR Communications Working Group. The Group were also provided reports on the progress of the Inland Consultative Committee and the maritime and Aviation Consultative Committee.
7. The Group were also provided with a presentation on the Firefighting at Sea project.
8. The Group discussed the draft working at height regulations and their potential impact on SAR activity within the UK, in particular with regard to the Mountain Rescue Teams.
9. The MoD noted that they were still fully committed to responding to civilian callouts when requested and that there had been no degradation to the service.