

Caving and Cave Rescue in Turkey

Caving

- Caving in Turkey goes back to early 20th century. Caving started to grow in 1950s mainly. First association founded in 1964 known as **MAD(Cave Research Association)**.
- Turkish cavers met with deep cave systems around 1990s. Deepest caves discovered around these times.

- Speleological Federation of Turkey has been founded at 1995.
- Today,we have 6 association and 10 university clubs.
- Between 400-500 people actively caving.
- Most of this number are students.

Cave Rescue Commission

- Cave rescue commission has been there for at least 10 years. It was a passive organization for many years. Re-organized recently. We've been working a lot more in last years to improve it. Both educational and technical.
- Inventory has been renewed. 5 Petzl nests and 3 skeds has been added
- We have 6 doctors in commission.

- Rescue trainings have been organized in Turkey with cavers from many different countries in past years.(Belgium,France,Italy,Germany,Bulgaria,Slovenia,Ukraine)
- In last year,two people attended to Speleo Trauma Care Course and Cave rescue training in Italy.Another two attended to rescue trainings in Slovenia.Also another 3 attended to Cave Rescue Training for Woman in Slovenia.

Sub-units of Commission

- Education and Technical
- Pyrotechnics
- Communication
- Medical

Education Levels

- Orientation to cave rescue
- Rescue Technician
- Rescue Rigger
- Cave Rescue Manager

Accidents

- There have been 2 deadly incidents reported in Turkey so far.
- First one is caused by flood. Caver caught to the flood while he wasn't attached to an anchor. He fell from a distance. Incident happened in 1200m deep.
- Second one is also caused by flood. This happened in a horizontal cave system. They were crossing a point where they needed to use a boat. Flooding happened when they were on the boat. A member of the team caught to the flood and drown.
- There have also been accidents with injuries. Some small party assisted rescues. There have been 4 accidents where an organized rescue operation was held. Explosives used to enlarge a narrow passage in one of the operations. In all four of them, injured person has been taken out safely.