

Norwegian Cave Rescue



Rescue in Norway



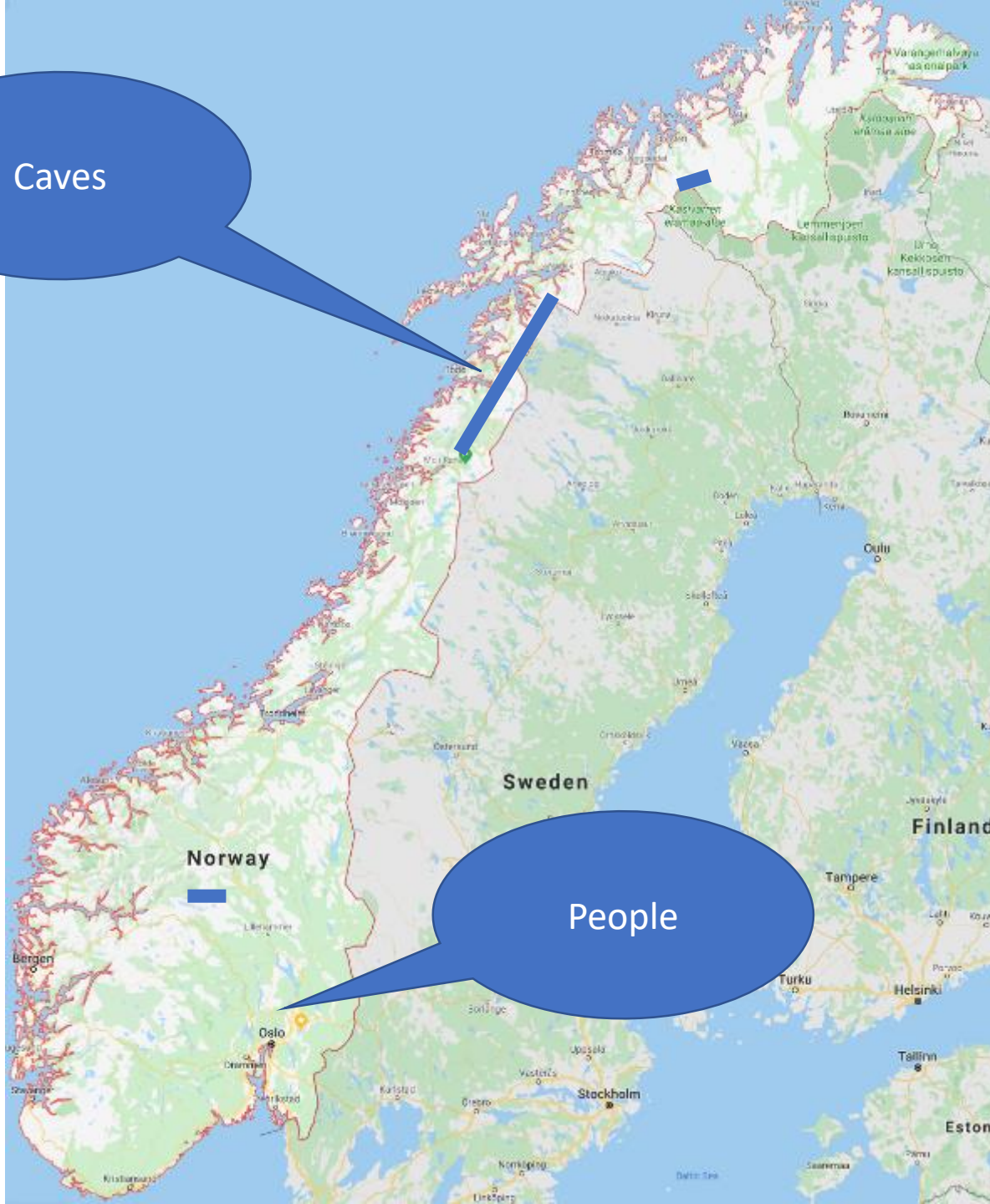
- Norway has a unique combination of professional and volunteer rescue services
- The volunteer organizations are accredited members of a state-supported group, and receive financial support (about €2.000.000 / year) – <https://www.forf.no>
- They cover general SAR (particularly the **S**earch part) in mountains, forests and at sea
- The Norwegian Cave Rescue group is the smallest and most specialized member organization

NGRT - Organization



- Operating with public financial support since 1996
- All members of the Norwegian Speleological Society (NGF) are in principle candidate participants in a rescue
- The **Response Team** of NGRT is the rescue arm, with regular exercises
 - 10-15 participants in the yearly main exercise
 - 18 members over the last 5 years
- NGRT is led by a **Rescue Manager**, who is also an NGF board member
- NGRT has its own independent budget, of about € 15.000 / year

Caves



- Most Norwegian caves are in the area between Mo i Rana and about 200 kms north of Bodø
- There are > 300 more or less known caves; the region is very sparsely populated and km-sized caves are still being found

NGRT - Equipment



- The main equipment store is at the back of the hangar housing the Sea King rescue helicopter for northern Norway, at the Bodø airfield
 - Almost all Norwegian caves are in that part of the country
- Secondary store in Oslo, to cover mines and urban explorers
- Stores contain cave rescue gear, rigging, rope, consumables, and some specialty items like dry suits for use in wet caves
- Communications gear – Heyphone ULF radio, Army field telephones
- Close cooperation with the 330 squadron operating the rescue helicopter

NGRT - Exercises



- Mainly held in caves, generally not too far from Bodø to ease logistics
- Occasionally in mines, in southern Norway
- 2-3 exercises per year
 - We strive for realism, for instance by having a live person on the stretcher
 - Rigging, coordination of people, care of the patient
 - Briefing/debriefing, the main exercise is always Friday-Sunday to have enough time
- Video documented for the past few years
 - 2018: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJRykbO9ibY> (cave)
 - 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awpYBTEkE6E> (mine)
 - 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxbURJx9itw> (cave)

Urban exploration & rescue



- This is a new area, with no current established procedures
- Work underground – power, telecom, subway, water, sewage, ...
 - The various public and private actors may or may not have the specialized gear and knowledge to handle an accident
 - We are in the early stages of forming relations with all the players
- Exploration – a trend
 - There are several groups of «Urban Explorers» who venture underground, as well as individuals
 - What happens when there is an accident; - these are people engaged in illegal activities

NGRT – For real



- Very few actual accidents in Norwegian caves
- Some cases of people oversitting their callout times
- One case of evacuation of deceased, in Plura in 2014 after a diving accident in a very deep and narrow underground passage
- Minor accidents, typically in connection with the NGF annual cave week; generally handled by self-rescue
- Norwegian caves are **cold**, 4-6°C and our long response time (6+ hours?) means that self-rescue is the best if at all possible

Contacts



- Main web page: www.speleo.no
- Email: ngf@speleo.no
- Emergency call: See updated list at <http://speleo.no/redning/index.htm>

Pluto – the lucky? dog in 2000

