

Grotteredningsaksjon

Cave rescue

A Swedish caver got his shoulder dislocated on the return from a trip down the main stream way of Okshola-Kristihola, Fauske, Nordland, just upstream of the upper swimming pool. The Norwegian Cave Rescue Service was called out via the Fauske police, stepping into action for the first time. The swedes were well-equipped and the victim kept warm and dry. He was first examined by a caver/doctor from Fauske, and given a shot of morphine. On the arrival of the main rescue team, he was put on the cave rescue stretcher and carried out through the canals and pools. The 4 m waterfall was rigged for hauling. At hospital in Bodø, his shoulder was quickly replaced. The Swedish team of six had broken their camp in the Kristihola, and celebrated the New Year's Eve in Bodø together with their rescuers. It took 11 hours from the time of the accident until the victim arrived at the entrance. In the analysis, several delays in the call-out procedure are discussed. Proposals how to make more effective rescues in future are made, and it is concluded that much practise is needed. This time, there was also a great deal of luck contributing to the success of the rescue.