



## Donegal MOUNTAIN RESCUE Team Application Pack

### Introduction

Thank you for your interest in our team. By requesting this application pack you have taken the first step towards becoming an active member of the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team.

The work that a mountain rescue responder carries out can be very demanding both physically and mentally and training to be a responder is equally demanding. To undertake this type of training you must be physically fit. The fitness level that is required must be achieved and maintained throughout your time as a volunteer with the team. This is your responsibility to maintain.

This pack has been prepared to give you information about the process, which has to be followed to achieve one of the three membership levels within the team, and what each role will involve for you. In addition it will provide you with information to help you to assess whether or not you have the skills, knowledge and experience to become a MR responder / MR reservist or a MR associate member of our emergency response

The Donegal Mountain Rescue Team was formed in 1982 following a re-organisation of mountain rescue services in Ireland. Since its inception the team has been responsible for providing a voluntary emergency response mountain search and rescue service for the county. Over the past three years the team has dealt with an average of 45-60 emergency calls per year which is just under 3 per month. This year to date we have had 45 callouts.

The commitment levels you will need to meet will be very high. Time away from family and friends for callouts, training, admin responsibilities and fundraising can easily at times be in the range of 20 to 30 hours per week.



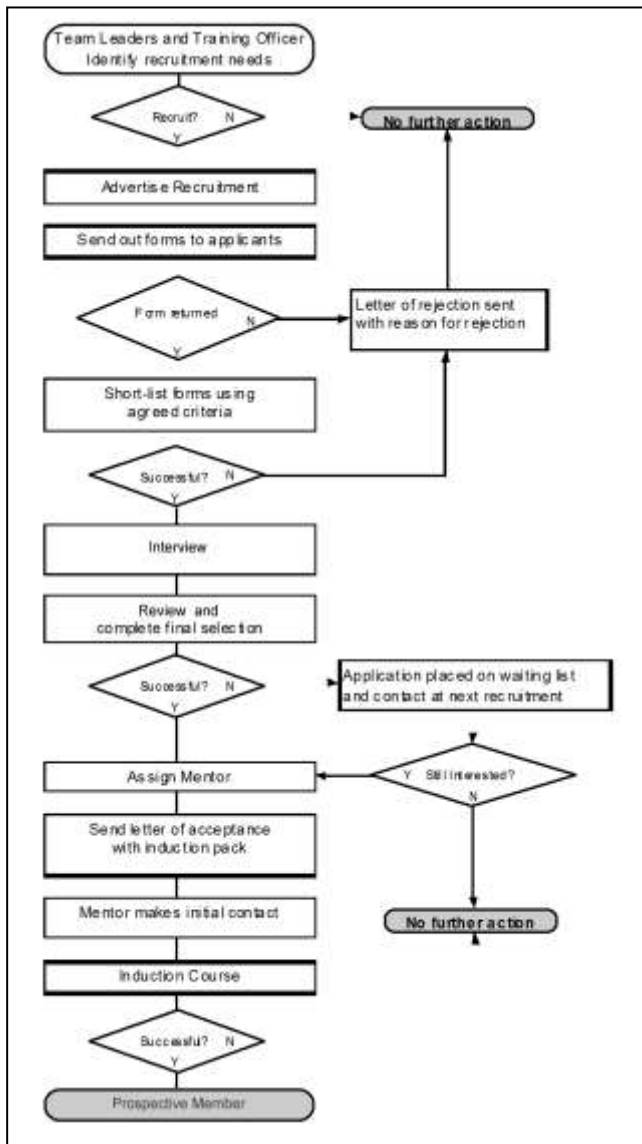
Please print the application form and return it by post to:

Mr Leo Murray  
Secretary  
Donegal Mountain Rescue Team  
Cashel  
Rossnowlagh  
Co Donegal

**Closing date for applications:**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

## 2. The Recruitment Process



Our recruitment process begins with the team leader and the training officer identifying our recruitment needs in terms of the number of recruits required to meet our needs and the areas where we need additional personnel. This is then balanced against the number of mentors available to work with potential members.

The next step is advertisement and this usually takes place in the local press, however, if there is an existing waiting list then any vacancies will be filled from the list before any advertising will take place.

Once the application forms are returned to the team secretary. The team leader, deputy leaders and training officer meet to short-list the forms. They use the criteria laid out in the person specification for the role. They will then send for references for the short-listed applicants. The references will be returned to the team leader. The selection panel will then meet with the short list applicants for an informal interview. After which the panel will again review the references and make their final selection. A mentor will be allocated to each successful applicant.

A letter of acceptance with details of the induction course will then be sent to the applicant. Shortly after this the mentor will make contact with the prospective member.

The prospective member is then invited to participate in an induction course. During the induction course the selection panel will make its decision as to whether or not the prospective member is suitable to commence induction training. If successful the applicant then becomes a probational member of the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team and commences their training programme.



## **3. Role Descriptor**

**Role: Mountain Responder**

**Responsible to: Party Leader/Team Leader**

### **1. Role Purpose**

- To act as a member of a mountain search and rescue team to search for, access, stabilise and transport any person who has become disorientated, ill or who has been injured in remote environments and extreme terrain in the area of operation of the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team.

### **2. Preventative Search & Rescue**

- To work towards reducing the number of deaths, injuries and persons becoming lost in mountainous areas of Donegal.

### **3. Operational**

- Attend emergency calls in remote environments and extreme terrain in all weather conditions including searches, rescues, body recovery incidents, air crashes and animal rescues.
- Maintain a standard of physical fitness in order to be effective in the operational role as a mountain responder.
- Carry out and where requested record maintenance and tests on mountain rescue equipment and vehicles to ensure a high state of preparedness.
- Work as a part of a team and react immediately to instructions given by party leaders and team leader.
- Carry out a range of duties compatible to his/her skills, knowledge and experience as directed by the team leader.

### **4. Training**

- Maintain a standard of training to enable them to be effective in the operational role as a mountain responder.
- Attend at least 50% of all training operations per module.
- Attain at your own cost a MR Skills 1 qualification in the first six months ( or evidence of relevant mountain navigation experience)
- You must have a current first aid qualification (OFA)

### **5. Conduct**

- Maintain a level of conduct in accordance with the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team Operational Guidelines and current constitution.

### **6. Health & Safety**

- Operate with due regard to the health, safety and welfare of self and others in accordance with Donegal MRT operational guidelines and current constitution.

### **7. Public Relations**

- Project an image and promote a culture of fairness and equality which enhances the reputation of the team and gives confidence to the public.

### **8. Administration**

- To assist with the administration of the team as required including attendance at/participation in at least two fund-raising activities per year.

**Role: M.R. Reservist**

**Responsible to: Party Leader/Team Leader**

**1. Role Purpose**

- To act as a reserve member of a mountain search and rescue team to search for, access, stabilise and transport any person who has become disorientated, ill or who has been injured in remote environments and extreme terrain in the area of operation of the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team.

**2. Preventative Search & Rescue**

- To work towards reducing the number of deaths, injuries and persons becoming lost in mountainous areas of Donegal.

**3. Operational**

- May be called out at the incident commander's discretion for operational support.
- Attend emergency calls in remote environments and extreme terrain in all weather conditions including searches, rescues, body recovery incidents, air crashes and animal rescues.
- Maintain a standard of physical fitness in order to be effective in an operational role
- Carry out and where requested record maintenance and tests on mountain rescue equipment and vehicles to ensure a high state of preparedness.
- Work as a part of a team and react immediately to instructions given by party leaders and team leader.
- Carry out a range of duties compatible to his/her skills, knowledge and experience as directed by the team leader.

**4. Training**

- Attend at least two basic skill days a year. and any other training days they may be able to attend

**5. Conduct**

- Maintain a level of conduct in accordance with the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team Operational Guidelines and current constitution.

**6. Health & Safety**

- Operate with due regard to the health, safety and welfare of self and others in accordance with Donegal MRT operational guidelines and current constitution.

**7. Public Relations**

- Project an image and promote a culture of fairness and equality which enhances the reputation of the team and gives confidence to the public.

**8. Administration**

- To assist with the administration of the team as required including attendance at/participation in fund-raising activities during the year.

**Role: M.R. Associate**

**Responsible to: Chair person / Secretary**

**1. Role Purpose**

Primarily as an administration support to mountain rescue.

**2. Preventative Search & Rescue**

- To work towards reducing the number of deaths, injuries and persons becoming lost in mountainous areas of Donegal. In extreme circumstances may be called to assist in a operational role at the discretion of the incident controller as a non hill going member

**3. Operational**

- Carry out a range of duties compatible to his/her skills, knowledge and experience as directed by the chair or secretary.

**4. Conduct**

- Maintain a level of conduct in accordance with the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team Operational Guidelines and current constitution.

**5. Health & Safety**

- Operate with due regard to the health, safety and welfare of self and others in accordance with Donegal MRT operational guidelines and current constitution.

**6. Public Relations**

- Project an image and promote a culture of fairness and equality which enhances the reputation of the team and gives confidence to the public.

**7. Administration**

- To assist with the administration of the team as required including attendance at/participation fund-raising activities during the year.

## 4. Application Form Guidance Notes

Please use these notes to assist you in completing the application form.

### 1. Personal Details

Please provide accurate details to help us to contact you. It is helpful if you have a mobile phone and e-mail. It is optional to include your work contact details.

### 2. Qualifications

Please provide details of any qualifications you have gained which may be relevant to your application. For example details of a Mountain Skills, Mountain Leader, First Aid or VHF Radio Licence. Please provide a copy of any qualifications.

### 3. Experience

Please provide details of any previous experience that you have which may be of use to you in mountain rescue operations. In particular we would like to hear about your hill walking and mountaineering experience. In addition information about any medical or previous emergency response experience you may have would also be helpful. References for these are needed.

### 4. Personal Equipment

Please tick any personal equipment that you have. It is not essential to have everything on the list. This section assists us in seeing what level of personal equipment you possess. We would expect that you would have most, but not all, things on the general list to enable you to participate in the induction course and other training operations. If you get to the induction day any PPE that is on your application form will need to be with you for inspection.

### 5. Understanding of Risk Declaration

In this section you are being asked to declare that you understand that there are dangers and risks involved in joining this team. In addition you are asked to declare that you are fit and healthy enough to become a member of an emergency response organisation. If you feel that you have any conditions or injuries which may affect your ability on the hill to work as a member of this team then please let us know on a separate sheet with your name at the top. Enclose this with your application form.

### 6. Child Protection

From time to time our work may bring us into contact with children. To ensure their safety we ask you to complete this section of the form honestly. If you answer yes to the question the team leader will contact you in confidence to discuss the matter further. **If you leave this part incomplete your application will be terminated. All members are vetted by the Garda**

### 7. Emergency Response Capability

Please provide details of when you are and when you feel you would not be available to answer emergency calls.

### 8. Confirmation of Details

In this section you are asked to confirm that all of the details that you have given are a true and accurate reflection of your personal details, skills, knowledge and experience. If at a future date it is discovered that your personal details or information has been falsified then your membership of the team may be terminated.



# Application Form

**Responder**       **Reservist**       **Associate**   
Please Tick one of the above.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Please complete all sections neatly in your own handwriting and return by post on or before the closing date.

**1. Personal Details**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_

<p><u>Home Address:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Home Phone: _____</p> <p>Work Phone: _____</p> <p>Mobile Phone: _____</p> <p>E-Mail: _____</p>
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**2. Relevant Qualifications (Please provide a copy of any certificates)**

Qualification	Date Gained	Expiry Date

**3. Relevant Experience (Continue on additional sheets if required & feel free to provide copies of logbooks)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Personal Equipment (Please Tick the equipment that you have)**

<p><b>General</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Boots <input type="checkbox"/> Gaiters <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Poles <input type="checkbox"/> Rucksack <input type="checkbox"/> Head torch <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle <input type="checkbox"/> Flask <input type="checkbox"/> Personal First Aid Kit <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof Coat	<input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof Trousers <input type="checkbox"/> Hat & Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Bivi Bag <input type="checkbox"/> Compass <input type="checkbox"/> GPS <input type="checkbox"/> 1:50 000 Maps of Donegal Area	<p><b>Expedition</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Mat <input type="checkbox"/> Stove <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> Bivvy Bag	<p><b>Technical</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Helmet <input type="checkbox"/> Harness <input type="checkbox"/> Sling <input type="checkbox"/> Karabiner <input type="checkbox"/> Belay Device <input type="checkbox"/> Descender <input type="checkbox"/> Rope Gloves
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**6. Statement of Risk Understanding (Please read carefully)**

In applying for and being accepted as a member or continuation of membership of the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team, I fully acknowledge and accept that there are or may be dangers entailed whilst involved in mountain rescue operations and activities, including risk of physical and psychological injury and death, and howsoever arising are undertaken at my sole personal risk. I also confirm that I have no known condition, injury or ailment that would preclude me from participating in mountain rescue operations. I agree to abide by the constitution and operational guidelines of the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**7. Child Protection**

As part of our operations the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team may be required to work with and have contact with persons under 18 years of age. As a result we ask you to answer the following question truthfully.

**Have you ever been convicted of any crime against a person who was under 18 years of age? Yes / No**

If you have answered yes then the team leader will contact you in confidence to discuss the matter further. A false disclosure on this question will lead to immediate termination of membership.

**8. Data Protection**

I consent to my details as listed on this form and data generated as a result of my participation in operations with Donegal MRT being held in electronic form by the team. This information will be held in confidence and not passed on to parties outside of Donegal MRT without my consent. I understand that I can inspect any data held on me at any time on request to the team leader:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**9. Availability for Response**

<p>Please circle the times that you are available to respond to emergency incidents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available means that you are able to respond at this time</li> <li>Limited means that you may be able to respond, but not always.</li> <li>Not available means that you are definitely not available at these times.</li> <li>Shift means that you are on shift work at these times.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mon - Fri</b></p> <p><b>00:00 – 08:00</b> Available Limited Not Available Shift</p> <p><b>08:00 – 16:00</b> Available Limited Not Available Shift</p> <p><b>16:00 – 00:00</b> Available Limited Not Available Shift</p> <p><b>Sat - Sun</b></p> <p><b>00:00 – 08:00</b> Available Limited Not Available Shift</p> <p><b>08:00 – 16:00</b> Available Limited Not Available Shift</p> <p><b>16:00 – 00:00</b> Available Limited Not Available Shift</p>
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**10. Confirmation of Details**

I confirm that the details provided on this form are correct and an accurate representation of my skills, knowledge and experience. I further understand that if any of the details supplied are later found to have been falsified then I my membership of the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team may be terminated.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_