

**James Stockton Bio:**

James is the Captain of Organ Mountain Tech. Rescue Squad, an all-volunteer search and rescue team based in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He is an avid climber, has degrees in mathematics and physics, and a PhD in astronomy. He also spends entirely too much time noodling over the intricacies of rescue systems.

**Abstract:**

In the field, technical rescue demands the safe and efficient application of techniques. As rescuers, we train to that end - a never ending goal of smoother, faster, safer. But, what about our understanding of the systems? When do we know enough? What level of detail and minutiae is useful? When can you be reasonably sure that a configuration has been tested sufficiently? These are questions that should be answered on an individual level, and by the rescue community. To that end I present a meta-analysis of past ITRS papers and presentations with an eye toward sampling statistics and confidence. I will also use the case studies of system components to demonstrate the line between useful insights and useless trivia.