Prologue

- Once upon a time, more than a half-century ago, there was a small club in a big Eastern city
- This club helped build some 400 miles of the Appalachian Trail, and continues to maintain this and other trails and trail shelters, and maintains and rents primitive backcountry cabins
- The club’s office in this city was open in the evenings only, mostly to handle cabin reservations

Fairy Tale 1:

- Once upon a time, before Harpers Ferry NPS Rangers had own vertical rescue capability
- Climber hurt stuck halfway up (or down) cliff
- Rangers had mutual aid agreement with a local fire department to handle cliff rescues
- Fire department said trained in cliff rescue by Mountaineering Section of the club
- Fire Department lowered wire-basket Stokes down to the guy, with rope on the head and tag line on the bottom
- Someone rappelled down and strapped him in litter.
No litter tender, just lowered on the top line while pulling on bottom line from below

[Gesture with hands] twisted and smashed his face against the cliff several times on the way down, got facial fractures

As a result, Rangers there now have independent cliff rescue capability

Fairy Tale 2:

Once upon a time, in fact at about the same time as the first tale, a Boy Scout troop went for a late-fall hike

They were hiking from Wolf Gap to Big Schloss cliffs in western Virginia

Anyone ever been there? PATC Sugar Knob Cabin is there. Nice trail.

Now this was long before cellphones or reliable weather predictions

As they were hiking back, it started snowing. Hard.

They started slowing down, slogging through the deepening snow

When they got back to Wolf Gap, the found that two scouts were missing

As it was getting dark, two adult leaders headed back up the trail to look for the lost or stranded Scouts

The two scouts ended up at the cars, but no sign of the two adults
From a payphone, they called the local Sheriff’s department to help, but they only had a couple of deputies to go out and search.

They called the hiking club HQ cabins desk and asked for people with snowshoes and headlamps to come help search; but the club had no way to do this.

The adults were found dead of hypothermia along the trail the next day.

Fairy Tale Follow-up:

The club’s Mountaineering Section never has trained outside people in cliff or mountain rescue.

The club found four people, one member of the club who was on the club’s Council, and three others with cave rescue and some above-ground search and rescue experience, and in 1972 asked them to organize an independent search and rescue training organization, resulting in the 1974 incorporation of the ASRC.

Archive.asrc.net > second document is an oral history of the founding of the ASRC.

http://archive.asrc.net/2016-11-04-ASRC-Early-History-draft-0.4.pdf

Emergency Services Workers
In 1974, the same year that the ASRC was incorporated, Jeff Mitchell started the idea of CISM.

While one of his inventions, CISD, is controversial if not deprecated these days, Jeff Mitchell's critical insights are still valid today.

Jeff is a clinical psychologist but also a firefighter/paramedic.

Most important is his realization that standard Rogerian psychotherapy “and how does that make you feel?” doesn't work with people like firefighter/paramedics, police, and SAR team members; why?

Think that this might have applications outside CISM.

Because of our personality types; we:

- have obsessive/compulsive personality traits
- need to be in control
- are risk oriented
- are action-oriented
• need to be needed
  [pause]
• are dedicated
  [pause]

❖ Alan Moore’s Jerusalem
  ➢ Comic-book writer most famous for things like *V for Vendetta*
  ➢ One of the ten longest novels in the English language, 1280 pages.
  ➢ In a hundred years, college English professors will require students to write papers on it
  ➢ Not an easy read, but very rewarding
  ➢ Do it with a Kindle reader rather than print, makes it easier to highlight and look up things which you will definitely want to do.
  ➢ All this leading up to one quote: “It’s usually the turf that ends up as the loser in a turf war”
  [pause]
  ➢ Our turf is helping others in the backcountry
  ➢ Thank you.