

## Keweenaw County Off-Road Rescue

Up until 2008, Mercy Ambulance was responsible for off-road rescue calls. For liability reasons and because of manpower issues, Mercy asked the counties to take over responsibility of off-road rescues. Keweenaw County Sheriff's Office approached every department in the county.

Ahmeek stepped up to the plate and accepted the challenge when no other departments were willing to take on the responsibility. Thus began Ahmeek's role as Keweenaw County Off-Road Rescue. The county purchased a 4-wheeler for the cause and Ahmeek Village kindly allowed us to use one of their DPW garages.

Over the last decade, we have acquired snowmobiles, a 6-wheeler, rescue sleds for victims, trailers to haul them on and vehicles to pull them with. And, we are still using Ahmeek's 1-bay, uninsulated, unheated garage! Space is not the only big issue. No heat or insulation is a big issue as well! Because of this, our 1st Responder bags, AED and radios need to be kept in a different building for many months of the year.

Also, the vehicles that pull our rescue trailers are not always cooperative being stored in the cold even though we keep them plugged in. All of this slows our response time to help those in need! Sometimes that delay can make the difference between life and death for you, a family member or a friend. We need a garage that is bigger, insulated and heated.

We are actively seeking grant money, government money, etc. to help us fund a new garage. But we need you to help them see that what we do is important and necessary considering where we live. We are surrounded by beauty that can be accessed by snowmobilers, ATV enthusiasts, hikers, bikers and skiers but not by the ambulance. And things can happen out there! Whether it's a medical issue, an accident or a wrong turn or a wandering child that leaves someone lost in the woods, we volunteer to come help! We need your testimonials to share showing the good things we do out there. If we have served you well out there, **please leave us a comment or send us a message** telling what we did for you. We can then share it with the grant people, etc. in hopes to get funding for a new rescue building. Thank you for your help!

Please contact the Ahmeek Fire Dept & Keweenaw Off Road Rescue or email Tricia Crampton at [tcrampton43@gmail.com](mailto:tcrampton43@gmail.com)