

Emergency and Rescue Workers in the Media

Fire fighters, police officers, paramedics, and other emergency and rescue workers are receiving increased media attention for their acts of heroism and bravery. In this activity you will analyze print media coverage of emergency and rescue workers.

- What kind of story is it? For example, is it a news article about an emergency situation? Is it a human interest piece about the good deeds of the emergency or rescue worker?
- What is the general tone of the article?
- How does the headline help tell the story?
- Where does the story appear in the newspaper or magazine? How does the article's placement help determine what type of story it is?
- Does the story refer to the rescue worker by name, or does it mention only that a rescue worker was on the scene? If a person's name is mentioned, explain why.
- Does a photograph accompany the story? What effect does it have on the story?
- Does the story show the rescue worker in a positive light? If so, identify the specific passages in which his or her deeds are shown positively.
- In what other ways does the story bring recognition to the work of rescue professionals?

ACTIVITY

Search through newspapers or magazines for stories about rescue and emergency workers. Choose an article and analyze it by answering the questions in the chart above. Write your analysis in the form of a report, and share it with the class.

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS

Prepare a list of ten interview questions for the emergency or rescue worker featured in the article that you analyzed. Questions might focus on background, training, and coping with high-stress situations.