

NO MOUNTAIN TOO HIGH

“Resilience, endurance and a certain capacity to suffer are perhaps the most important qualities that we mountain rescuers must have.”

Wilfried Seidl, semi-retired; Project Development and Calculation, Automotive Division Kiefel



THE AUSTRIAN MOUNTAIN RESCUE SERVICE was founded as an aid organisation in 1896.

12,000 men and women work as volunteers throughout Austria.

IN THE FEDERAL STATE OF SALZBURG, almost 1,400 mountain rescuers are in action.

WILFRIED SEIDL is in charge of the mountain rescue service in the region of Tennengau, which has 140 members.

“ I love the feeling, the freedom of standing on top of a mountain,” says a beaming Wilfried Seidl. He answered the proverbial call of the wild in his early childhood. Now 60 years old, he has long since given up counting the summits that he’s conquered. The Austrian from the province of Salzburg has been with Kiefel since 1980. But he’s been working as a mountain rescue volunteer for even longer – 40 years, to be precise – helping rock climbers and hikers get out of trouble.



He made the decision to support the mountain rescue service while still a teenager. Wilfried was spending a lot of time at a mountain refuge, where he experienced numerous mountaineering injuries up close. He completed his first rescue mission at the age of 17. Today, he is in charge of the Tennengau region, which has 140 active mountain rescuers and members who work on behalf of the Salzburg Mountain Rescue Service.



Wilfried has been called into action on many missions over the past 40 years. The one he remembers most clearly was a serious accident in 2014, when an explorer from Poland plummeted down a cave and was seriously injured. The four-day rescue mission pushed the rescuers to their limits. “That’s why it’s important to be resilient and have a certain degree of toughness,” says Wilfried.

He also had a leadership role within the company before going into semi-retirement. The skills he has learned as a mountain rescuer – such as being able to keep calm in unexpected situations and guide missions to a successful conclusion – have been a great help to him at work.

WILFRIED SEIDL

Age: 60

Lives in: Golling (Salzburg, Austria)

Loves: doing things with friends

Finds impossible: nothing!

