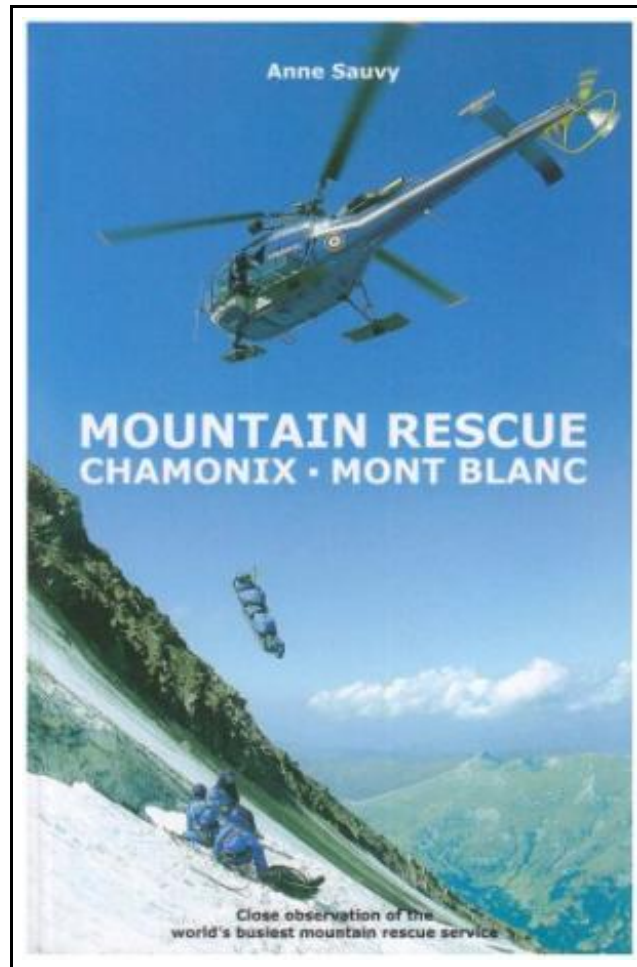


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Baton Wicks Publications. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Mountain Rescue - Chamonix Mont Blanc: A Season with the World's Busiest Mountain Rescue Service, Anne Sauvy, Sue Harper, 'Don't look, I'll have to cut your trousers.' 'But they're new!' 'Don't worry! My knife's new too!' A surreal conversation, but it is the act of talking that matters, the human exchange of words, proving that you are stronger than the adverse forces of nature. Anne Sauvy starts her season with the Chamonix mountain rescue on a beautiful August day that sees the complicated and dangerous rescue of a couple who have fallen from the Frontier Ridge on Mont Maudit. A shattered kneecap, exposed bone, a gaiter holding half a litre of blood and a rescue attempt from an insecure belay on the rotten ice of a near vertical wall. All in all, a typical day. The mountain rescue service based in the French resort of Chamonix is a highly skilled and speedy operation; it lifts stricken climbers from the huge glaciers, rock peaks and hazardous snow slopes of the highest massif in Western Europe. It is run by a section of the Gendarmerie, skilled mountain doctors who conduct emergency medicine in incredible situations. While researching for a novel set during an Alpine rescue, Sauvy was so struck by their work that she decided to document their activities for a complete summer season. So began a season of freak accidents, big technical rescues, modest alarms for lost children or aging relatives, high altitude illness, eccentric soloists, parapent plummets, potential epics averted and, of course, much tragedy. In all this Sauvy notes the stoicism, team spirit and humour of the rescuers, often consoles the rescued and sometimes find herself comforting the bereaved. A month into the assignment, after several fatalities she was so...



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