Redundancies – when are they useful and from when on are they restricting?

Andres Bardill, mountain guide, director Swiss Alpine Rescue
Key aspects

- Introduction and terminology with objectives
- Classification of redundancies in rescue organisations
- Examples of redundant systems
- Limits of redundancies
- Personal responsibility
Redundancy according to the dictionary

**Meaning:**
- to show redundancy; overabundant

**Synonyms for redundant:**
- to exist several times, superfluous, surplus, supernumerary;
  (colloquial) doing the same thing twice over, twice and thrice over

**Origin:**
- Latin redundans (genitive: redundantis), present participle of:
  redundare = to overflow, originally to redound, from re-, red- = back and unda = wave
Redundancy on wikipedia (German version)

The term redundancy, adj. redundant, (Latin redundare, “to overflow”, “exist in abundance”) describes:

- In general an overlapping or abundance in the sense of surplus

- Redundancy (technology), the multiple existence of functionally similar or comparable technical resources (mostly for safety reasons), if they are not needed for the trouble-free normal operation.

- Rock climbing: back belaying or doubling of certain (critical) elements of the safety chain to increase security, for example the use of two karabiners to deflect the rope in toprope-climbing.
Theses

- “Abundance”, “doing the same thing twice over” and “to exist several times“ stand for redundant and are the basis of proportional risk management.

- Risk management requires the use and implementation of the power to act and to decide.

- The use of redundant systems and organisational measures is essentially based on personal responsibility.
Redundant areas

Operation and operational readiness

Resources  Logistics  Information
Operation and operational readiness
Operation and operational readiness
Operation and operational readiness

Career changers
- Doctor, Paramedic
- Courses recognised by **SAR**: SAC, SMGA, J+S, VBS, etc.

Specialists
- Canyoning rescuer
- Dog handlers
- Doctor rescue station
- Rescue specialist helicopter (RSH)

Rescuer I
- Rescuer II
- Rescuer III
- Head of operations
- Instructor
Resources
Logistics
Information and communication
Limits of redundancy
Personal responsibility

Legally required personal responsibility:

- Knowing the risk
- Technical knowledge
- Power to act and decide
- Capability to act and decide
- Possibility to act and decide
Personal responsibility

Top team, spontaneous first aid

Technical experts (all)

Operational team rescue station

Operational leader (OLAS)

Large incident partner organisations

Operational lead (police, SAC, army..)
Citation from the magazine “Bergundsteigen” 2/11 Klaus Burger:

(Originally in German)

The development in European law, taking into account the constitutional self-determination and personal responsibility of the sportsperson, including practical alpine experience and the assessment of accidents in regard of technical and legal points of view, is in the interest of all mountain sports people – not least from the point of view of legal security – utterly necessary.

An ambitious matter! Associations and authorities are challenged. Risk – why not!