

ICAR MEDCOM SPRING 2014 minutes

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Welcome

President Fidel Elsensohn welcomed the members of the Commission.

Present

Fidel Elsensohn – President (AT), John Ellerton -Vice President (UK), Ken Zafren - Vice President (US), Gege Agazzi (IT), Marc Blancher (FR), Doug Brown (CA), Hermann Brugger (IT), Lana Donlagic (HR), Mike Greene (UK), Alex Kottman (CH), Volker Lischke (DE), Scott McIntosh (US), Wojciech Moskal (PL), Natalie Müller (DE), Maria Antonia Nerin (ES), Oliver Reisten(CH), Dick Price (NZ), Adriano Rinaldi (IT), Johannes Schiffer (DE), Sven Christjar Skaiaa (NO), Inigo Soterias (ES), Günther Sumann (AT), Oleg Tcholakov (BG), David Watson (CA), Greg Zen-Ruffinen (CH), Mario Milani (IT), Peter Paal (AT), Giacomo Strapazzon (IT), Iztok Tomazin (SI)

Guest: Tobias Huber (D)

Introductions. Introductions of new and old members

Special Presentation

Suzy Stokes and Pranav Koirala presented an account of the accident on Mt. Everest (6 am 18th April 2014). There were 60 Sherpas in the Khumbu Icefall. A ladder needed repair, causing a traffic jam. Those in the center of the group, at about 5800 m, were hit by a serac fall. Eight doctors assembled at Everest Base Camp. Six walking wounded arrived, starting at 9:30 am. Those with minor injuries were taken to a secondary area. Victims were tagged with triage markers. Helicopters arrived from Kathmandu and flew the rescue team from Base Camp to the Football Field. There was a Paramedic at scene. Two casualties were flown to Base Camp by 11 am. A third casualty was flown by long line to Base Camp. The most serious casualty was initially unconscious with abdominal and maxillofacial trauma. One casualty went directly to Kathmandu, Two casualties were flown to Pheriche and then by military helicopter to Kathmandu. Most of the bodies of the fatally injured were transferred to Base Camp by long line. On the following day, the 13th body was removed. There are 3 bodies still missing.

Following the rescue there was a medical debriefing. Issues discussed regarding preparedness included triage cards, incident management vests and crowd management. Causes of the accident included a wide variation in temperatures, and the fact that the track through the Ice Fall has moved under the North Face over the years. The rescue was made more complicated because it was very early in season and the radio net was not yet up.

PAPERS

Discussion of Modular First Aid Kit paper – Oliver Reisten.

The paper will be simplified and should be available to comment on our web platform at least one month before the Fall meeting at Lake Tahoe in October 2014.

Avalanche Victim Resuscitation Checklist – Alex Kottman

Preliminary trials of the checklist were limited by a perception by rescuers that it appeared to be too complex and by a very low snow year in the Alps. The authors have developed an internet training module, which will be available in several languages.

ICAR General Assembly Fall 2014 – Joint Session

The theme will be multi-casualty incidents. The preconference day (October 6, 2014) will be a joint meeting of the Avalanche, Terrestrial and Medical Commissions. The Medical Commission will organize scenarios for the 3 commissions. There was a discussion regarding how to organize the scenarios.

A working group met with Manuel Genswein after our meeting in order to organize the activities of the joint session.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2014 October 5-10 ICAR General Assembly. Lake Tahoe, Nevada, USA MedCom members should plan on attending the preconference day (6 October).

2015 May - dates to be determined: Spring meeting Ticino, Switzerland (Oliver Reisten and Gregoire Zen-Ruffinen)

2015 ICAR General Assembly Ireland

2016 ICAR MedCom Spring meeting. Cape Town, South Africa.

CLOSING

Fidel Elsensohn closed the meeting and thanked all the participants.

Minutes by Ken Zafren and John Ellerton