SAR in Iceland

Search and Rescue on the Rock

Þóra Jóhanna Jónasdóttir
ICE-SAR
- 103,000 km²
- 339,000 persons
- 3.2 souls pr. km²
- 60% of the land above 400m
- More than 11,000 km$^2$ of glaciers
- 4,970 km coast line
Land
Search and rescue dogs
SAR in Iceland – ICE SAR

- The backbone of SAR in Iceland
- Do nearly all of the SAR work on all levels
- Have their own command structure that integrates the police as legally responsible
- All volunteers
ICE-SAR

The ICE SAR statistics

- 91 SAR teams based in most towns and villages
- 4200 SAR volunteers available 24/7
- 80 Accident prevention units
- 50 Youth units (pre-training program)
- Headquarters staffed with 16 people
- 12-1300 operations a year
SAR-Teams

- 170 Modified Rescue Trucks
- 200 Snow Scooters
- 43 Snow Cats
SAR-Teams

- URBAN SAR
- Mountain Rescue
- Medical
- Avalanche
- Maritime
- Diving
- K-9 search dogs
- Etc.
International SAR Team

- Founded 1999
- Part of INSARAG under the UN
- Classified by the UN as a medium USAR Team since 2009
- Volunteers from ICE-SAR’s rescue teams
- Callouts to Algeria, Morocco, Indonesia and Haiti
Finances

• Headquarters
  – Slot machines
  – Gov. Support
  – (Fundraising)

• SAR teams
  – Fireworks 80%
  – Lottery
  – Christmas trees
  – Recycling bottles
Civil protection
Civil Protection

- ICE SAR is a part of the agreement on civil protection
- Our command structure is used in the agreement
- National command and Area commands
- Rescue teams
ICE SAR and civil protection

- ICE SAR teams play a key role in civil protection
  - Basic agreement
  - Agreements made by different teams
  - In all preplans
Case Study:
South Coast earthquakes May 2008

- 6,1-6,3
- 440 ICE SAR Volunteers
- Police
- Fire departments
- Hospitals
- Red Cross volunteers
- Ambulance services
- Many others...
Case Study: South Coast earthquakes May 2008

- Urban SAR
  - Many houses with structural damage
- Management
- Visiting all residents
  - Most houses were heavily affected
  - Many needed help cleaning up the mess
- Supplied tents, generators and other gear.
- Many other assignments
Case Study:
South Coast earthquakes May 2008

- Lessons learned:
  - The command systems were available but were not used
  - Checking every single home is important for the local people
  - Icelandic houses are strong but the need for Urban SAR remains
  - Training is needed for general SAR teams
Case Study: 2010 Eruptions

Fimmvörðuháls
- VEI 1
- ICE-SAR role: patrols, assistance to tourists

Eyjafjallajökull
- VEI 5
- ICE-SAR role: evacuation of farms, patrols (closing of roads), relocation of livestock, assistance to tourists, assistance to scientists.
Case Study:

2011 Grímsvötn Eruption

- VEI-6 (in one day)
- ICE-SAR role: evacuation of farms, patrols (closing of roads), relocation of livestock, assistance to tourists, assistance to scientists.
Case Study:  
2014 Bárðarbunga Eruption

- Largest lava eruption since 1783
- Caldera is “imploding”
- ICE-SAR role: patrols (closing of roads), assistance to tourists, assistance to scientists.
2014 Bárðarbunga Eruption
Did you find the skier?

Yeah, but I didn't like his attitude, so I reburied him.
Hundeorganisasjoner
Slysavarnarfélagið Landsbjörg

Björgunarhundasveit Íslands
http://bhsi.is/

Leitarhundar
http://leitarhundar.is/
Rescue dog organisations

On call out
19 dog teams
- 18 terrestrial search
- 15 avalanche

On call out
18 dog teams
- 14 terrestrial search
- 15 avalanche
• 2017
  – 94 times dog teams participated in search
  – 18 dog handlers
  – 41 call outs (1 avalanche)

• 2018
  – 23 times dog teams participated in search
  – 12 dog handlers
  – 7 call outs
Thank you!