



International Commission for Alpine Rescue ICAR
Terrestrial Rescue Commission
Avalanche Rescue Commission



Minutes ICAR Zermatt 2009

Avalanche and Terrestrial Rescue Commissions
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Participants:

Members of both commissions
Session conducted by G. Barbisch and H.-J. Etter

Concept Training for Avalanches - Martin Hans Henny KZGA

After some convincing we were able to build a core "Avalanche Training" team. The training topics were developed by a team of experts who teach the product in different organizations and apply it in training. Financing is still a big question. Each member of this organization pays member dues, the SLF pays the main share annually (www.slf.ch). This year a standard was adopted (avalanche emergency material) and the brochure "Watch Out, Avalanche" was revised.

The brochure was formulated with members of the organizations.

We also have a workgroup that is concerning itself with mountain sports and is conducted by the Swiss Alpine Club (www.sac-cas.ch).

File : 14-Vortrag KZGA KAT.pdf

Questions	Answers
This concept is similar to the one in Canada. How many participants are taking part in this training?	Exact participant numbers cannot be given. The training is held in mountain guide courses, patrol courses, courses of Youth and Sport, ski instructors, rescuers, military, etc., i.e. to numerous people.

New ARVA-LINK - Alban Brown Nic Impex

Presentation of a new attempt in product development. The manufacturer states that they are at a point where the development is at its limit. There are more and more different models of avalanche beacons (old analog devices that are still being carried and always new digital models). The buried are not always found easily with this constellation. We are now working with Marmut on the optional frequency (868 MHz) technology W-link. This technology allows new developments.

File: 15-ARVA.pdf

Integration of Mountain Rescue within the Local Civil Defense in South Tyrol – Mountain Rescue in AVS

Presentation of the concept in South Tyrol. In summary: In some instances the county crisis committee is used. Further, the regional services are brought into action, and only after them the provincial catastrophe service. Different organizations are integrated, for example firefighters, EMS, as well as the mountain rescue. The mountain rescue is deployed within a first response unit, alarmed through 115 or 118. All centers work with the same system. This allows for a more efficient and coordinated operation. The alpine rescue is part of the civil defense and is under the same law. As an example, the operation in the Abruzzi in April 2009, organization of accommodations and the infrastructure for the earthquake victims.

File: 16-BRD-AVS-Katastrophenschutz.pdf

Topic: Multiple Buried Persons in Avalanches - Gregor Krenn and Michael Rust from the company Pieps

Presentation of a revised study from last year for localizing buried persons. For the goal of rescuing a buried person alive, the time of being buried is still the main problem. We calculate with a buried time of 10 minutes. The studies show that in case of several buried persons, the marking and cutting off of devices brings a big advantage. The acoustic probe also brings good gain in time.

File: 17-PIEPS-Entwicklungen.pdf

Questions	Answers
The electronic probes seem interesting. Can they only be used in conjunction with the devices of the same company?	The marking works only with the PIEPS DSP device. The probe only responds to the Pieps software.

ABS - Peter Aschauer

Over the past few years the avoidance of being buried became more and more the priority. Avalanche bulletins get more accurate all the time and there has also been much improvement in prevention. Prevention pays off. More and more people go to the mountains and in the deep snow so that the number of avalanche victims stays almost always the same.

Goal of the ABS is that the buried persons stay on the surface as much as possible when the avalanche stops.

The activation has been a problem because the endangered persons had to deploy the ABS themselves. Therefore the ABS has developed a remote activator. This allows the deployment to also be done through a third person, for example by a friend in a safe place or by the mountain guide.

File: 18-ABS_Fernausloesung.pdf

Questions	Answers
The remote has a magnet which could lead to interference with the avalanche beacon. What will you do in order to avoid that ?	One has to get used to carrying the avalanche beacon on the other side of the body, but with the definitive development, we should be able to solve this problem. Note: One has to be cautious. Small magnets can interfere with, or even turn off, an avalanche beacon.
When a person is lying in the snow with an airbag, the position is always lying under the ABS. What are your thoughts regarding the position of the victim?	One can say that in reality it is unlikely that the person with ABS will be buried completely in the snow. The lying position is favorable because that way persons are less pinned in the snow. Entrapment should, as far as possible, be avoided. Therefore we are also studying the positions of the victims.
	In summary: We pay attention to and are looking for systems that can solve the problem of transport with airplanes and interferences.

Mountain Safety Council - Kent Herrstroem

Presentation of the Swedish concept in which even in extreme situations (temperatures down to -40 degrees and great distances) they can still react. Rescue operations sometimes involve a great expenditure of time. In the past 30 years, very big avalanche accidents have happened in which hypothermia played a big role. Therefore the government worked out a concept which allows better management of the operations. Today we have more and more accidents with snowmobiles.

File: 19-Sweden-Mountain-safety-council.pdf

Questions	Answers
Are there areas assigned for snowmobiling?	Only in the national parks is it prohibited. All other areas are open and can be used for snowmobiling.
	Of note, the prevention of accidents for skiers is very advanced. For snowmobiling, an adapted language has to be found.

Search Operations in the Mountains - Dan Hourihan MRA

The presentation will show how a search operation can be better controlled and judged through not only concentrating on the possibilities but on the concrete. The problems have to be worked out well and the assignments have to be concrete so that all assignments can be clearly depicted. This involves the preparation and the course, as well as the result.
There has to be a determination between the possible and the likely zones. This should lead to a possible result with organizational and technical means of operation.
The success of a search operation is also determined by seeing and not only looking, hearing and not only listening.

File: 20-MRA-Search.pdf

Presentation of Mapping-System 3-D

Presentation of a technique to portray terrain features on PC in 3D. The goal is to depict the terrain as it is in reality. It is a considerable improvement over the data of Google Earth. The resolution is much finer. It allows for realistic data transfer.

File: 21-Präsentation_3DRealityMaps_1.pdf

Questions	Answers
Which system are you using?	We use a camera which is also utilized in space. We still have the possibility to develop and improve much of it.

Presentation of Cooperation between Rescue and Police - Gerwyn Lloyd und Tim Bird, Wales

The cooperation between rescue and police in corpse recovery is presented. The police are responsible for this work. Most of the time, though, different jobs are delegated to the rescue. The rescuers look for the corpse and the police coordinate the interrogations and investigations. The police also establish identity, time, place, and circumstances of the accident. It is not always easy to interpret witness testimony.

File: 22-NWP-and-MRA-Fatal-incident-protocoll.pdf

Presentation of Avalanche Beacon Search Time Tests - Bob Sayer, CSGA

We have conducted several different tests with different avalanche beacon devices as well as users with different skills (beginners and professionals).
The results are presented and can be compared on the presentation.

File: 23-Sayer-Test-DVA.pdf

Rescue Compass - Reto Keller, SLF

Unfortunately we had to realize that rescuers themselves have accidents and have even died during rescue operations. We have developed a disc (compass) and a rescue journal for reference which make decisions during operations easier (terrain assessment, avalanche danger, weather conditions, human factors, etc.). The disc helps to determine whether one is in the green (less dangerous) or the red (dangerous) zone during an operation. One can also continuously analyze how the situation is changing, for example from green to red or vice versa. This is a simple aid which makes the risk assessment during an operation easier.

File: 24-SLF-Reto-Keller-Gefahrenbeurteilung.pdf

For the English Translation: Olivia Cashner