



Internationale Kommission für Alpines Rettungswesen IKAR
 Kommission für Bodenrettung
 International Commission for Alpine Rescue ICAR
 Commission for Terrestrial Rescue
 Commission Internationale de Sauvetage Alpin CISA
 Sauvetage Terrestre



Minutes ICAR Zermatt 2009
 Terrestrial Rescue Commission
 Meeting from September 24, 2009

Participants

Delegates of the Terrestrial Rescue Commission, conducted by Bruno Jelk and Gebhard Barbisch

Cable Car Rescue - Klaus Opperer – Bavarian Mountain Rescue

Bavaria has developed a standardized system which was tested for all types of cable cars. It was certified to the European standard. It is independent from any manufacturer. All components are available on the market and these were tested for efficiency and safety. The system is therefore especially economical. The training is also conducted in the training center in Bad Toelz in Bavaria.

A technical documentation is available.

File: *01-BWB-Seilbahnevakuierung.pdf*

Mr. Opperer is available for questions: klaus@opperer.net

Questions	Answers
Why did you choose the Petzl ID?	- One can evacuate the passenger safely from the top. Compared to other devices it is economical and it is safe. One can belay 150 kg over 100 m. It is possible to belay two persons together.
We prefer to rescue the person when the person is belayed by a rescuer at the ground. That way the rescuer in the cable car or on the chair has always both hands free.	- We also discussed this quite a bit. The arguments are listed on page 18 of the document. After all, we cannot demand one universal method. One cannot submit the mountain rescuers to the same norm as the cable car employees. The demands are by far not the same. In Austria the mountain rescue has the liberty to use their own rescue material. Obviously that is not the case in all countries.
In Switzerland the guidelines of the business authority have to be observed. The cable car companies have to fulfill the guidelines of that organization. There are specific guidelines for the evacuation. The timeframe is mostly 2 hours. This is hard to keep with Petzl ID. With this device, we can only belay 1 person.	- In Bavaria it is 2 hours for chair lifts and 3 hours for cable cars or gondolas. - For the passenger the time to the evacuation is decisive, especially when the weather conditions are bad. In order to keep the timeframe, up to 10 rescue teams are necessary. There is a document available which shows the time calculations (for example, 60 gondolas, 52 occupied – need for at least 4 teams. This takes, if all goes well, 246 minutes). Children should be rappelled together with adults.
Reality:	In reality only the personnel of the affected cable car are available for an evacuation. Personnel from other companies cannot be counted on. They have to keep running their equipment and they cannot be halted. So

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	those personnel are not available. External rescuers have to be organized. Depending on the location, they can be deployed rather quickly or less so.
Bruno Jelk says that there are instances where rappelling from the gondola or chair are less problematic than the evacuation on the ground. This depends on the evacuated persons as well as the terrain and the cable car.	A European norm 1709 stipulates the timeframe from the evacuation to the place where the people can move around freely and safely. These timeframes are, depending on the situation, unrealistic and cannot be kept.

President Toni Grab has 2 items to discuss:

A practical meeting like the one in Chamonix will only be organized with the congress if enough topics for such a meeting are available. As already discussed at Chamonix, a team should be organized that concerns itself with this early on.

The petition of the Alpine Rescue Switzerland for a 5th commission for avalanche and search dog handlers will be discussed at the Assembly of Delegates on Saturday. The dog handlers can claim the necessary time during the congress for an internal meeting. The executive committee is not in favor of a 5th commission.

Topic: Rope and Harness Rescue - Albert Wenk

The products utilized with mountain and leisure sports are getting more specific.

All products were tested and evaluated. However, the application is not always correct and the standards are not always observed. The users are subject to the advantages as well as disadvantages. A system can be efficient, but has to be mastered and controlled. The "human" factor definitely has to be taken into consideration.

For example, the use of a Dyneema rope. This is not comparable to the previous static ropes. All systems are tested and adhere to the standards of mountain sports and the legal guidelines of safety. However, they have to be used appropriately and the users have to be educated. Only "skill and knowledge" represent safety, not „presumption“.

File: 02-Wenk-Seile und Gurtsysteme in der Bergrettung.pdf

Presentation of an innovation of a new static rope „Unicore Process“. The name of the rope is „Access“ and it corresponds to the usual classic standard norms for static ropes.

www.beal-planet.com/access

File: 03-Beal-System Unicore Process.pdf

Questions	Answers
Can the Access ropes be knotted?	Yes. There is no change in user simplicity or smoothness of the ropes.
If I use the rope with a device (clip), what is the maximum weight?	After approximately 400 kg the sheath can rip. The clips are also intended for that weight. Access is not yet intended for 400 kg but only for approximately 200 kg. With this method one can also lessen shrinkage in water.
Do you recommend to use it like static ropes? - When will it be available? - How can one recognize the rope?	- Yes, this method is currently only for static ropes. We hope that the development will also be possible for dynamic ropes. - Beginning of January 2010. - We will have special colors - gray in gray + blue + red.
Is there a difference in making knots?	- The knots have no influence and it is the same as with the current static ropes.
Dyneema ropes We would like for you to help us draft a recommendation for the use of Dyneema ropes.	- Mr. Wenk is willing to help us.

Were there tests conducted with rappelling of multiple people?	- We have only noticed the shrinkage in water. All other parameters and characteristics with Unicore have not changed.
Rescuers have to improvise often. Different elements and systems are used together. Is a system that does not allow for improvisation not dangerous?	- One should not only know the material but the person also has to be educated. - It is better when rescuers professionally use this system and work with it. Then it is okay. - Rescuers who are only occasionally deployed have to know that they cannot improvise with such a closed system.

Petzl distributes each a lamp as a gift. Many thanks to Petzl.

Utilization and Testing Dyneema Rope in conjunction with Petzl - ÖBRD - Peter Veider

This concept was already presented in the first phase in Chamonix 2008. All elements of the concept can be separated. A training of 3 days is necessary for the utilization of this system. The basis material can be used in terrestrial rescue as well as air rescue. The whole concept is based on the same foundation. It can be used in different modules and therefore working according to the circumstances is always possible.

File: 04-ÖBRD-Dyneema-Seile-System.pdf

Fa. Petzl notes:

In theory we cannot use the Dyneema ropes with our materials. We have conducted many tests and have noticed that our products can always be used as a whole system. It is sometimes necessary to use the elements of another system in order to make a combined utilization of certain materials possible. Normally in the system that Peter Veider has presented, a belay device is used.

If you want to use a component of a system, you always need to consult the manufacturer so as to avoid unpleasant surprises.

File: 05-Petzl-Dyneema-Kombination.pdf

Questions	Answers	
How do we know if belay devices are sufficient?	The application has to be done according to the manufacturers technical data. Wrong utilization mustn't happen.	
What shall we do if the belay device opens?	This is a good question, and it is correct that the lightening of the load is not guaranteed. In regards to our tests the maximal load is still very high and belay devices are still the safest.	
Have you measured the warmth using the Reverso while rappelling?	- We measured the system rappelling from 200 m and it was okay. It is true, we should take measurements over longer distances.	

Checklist for Mountain Rescue in Summer - Theodor Maurer

I am responsible for the training and equipment of the Alpine Rescue Switzerland.

In order to minimize the risks and to make an evaluation possible, it is urgent something has to be done. In order to reduce the risk, we have established a checklist 3x3.

Alpine Rescue Switzerland will integrate this checklist in their training.

File: 06-ARS-Checkliste-Sommereinsatz.pdf

Iceland Search and Rescue - Olafur Siggj-Retter ICE

My country has been a member for 3 years and we have noted that there are many differences between our organization and most of the others. Our country is relatively isolated and moreover Iceland is a country in bankruptcy and this poses a lot of problems. Each station has to come up with financing itself. Some

financing comes from the gambling law and another part from the government. The sale of fireworks also brings in some money.

We use mostly 4x4 Super Jeep for rescue operations. We work mainly with volunteer rescuers.

File: 07-ICE-SAR-in-Iceland.pdf

Topic: The Roof of Austria - Grossglockner

The first expeditions to the peak were made with selected alpinists. The personal chef of prince bishop Salm cooked many opulent meals; delicacies like pineapple, melons, figs, peaches, and champagne were on the menu. Today the melting of the glacier still brings big changes and lots of work had to be done for safety.

This area is now a national park. The website is www.alpenverein.at.

File: 08-ÖBRD-Rieger_Großglockner.pdf

Integration of the Slovenian Mountain Rescue into Disaster Control – Slovenian Mountain Rescue Dusan Polajnar

Our organization has been a member of ICAR since 2006. Our government has created an independent structure. Since 2006 part of it is financed through the lottery.

The civil defense and disaster control in Slovenia is very well organized and is under the Department of Defense which finances the administrative work and the actual operations. The 112 is the emergency number.

During the Stoz catastrophe (flood-like rain) in November 2000, very big landslides happened. Seven village residents died. This region is also in danger of earthquakes. The alpine rescue was deployed for finding the victims and also had to keep a watch on the terrain. The watch lasted a month.

In 2007 we had again problems with flooding.

In 1981 an airplane crashed in Ajaccio. The government decided to clean up the area and to recover the leftover airplane pieces. The Slovenian civil defense organized the transport.

Files:

09-GRZS-Katastrophenschutz.pdf

10-presentation-GRZS-ICAR-09.pdf

Swedish Mountain Rescue – Integration into Civil Defense

Sweden has worked out and enforced a rescue law. The police are responsible for mountain rescue and search operations. They request the necessary means and also apply them. The police are also responsible for the training and procurement of the material. The police also appoint the commandant for the search operation. The mountain rescuers are working voluntarily.

File: 11-Swedish-Mountain-Rescue-integration.pdf

Questions	Answers
How are the volunteers integrated in the law and what is their status?	Rescuers have to have an agreement with their respective employers that they can leave work for a rescue operation. In general there are no problems. Everyone knows the problem and knows how important a rescue is.
Who conducts the rescue operation, the police or the mountain rescue?	- The police conduct the operation from their offices. The rescue teams are on the spot and coordinate the operation.

Developments in Iceland - Siggj

Management of disturbances and extraordinary events.

Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are often and cause significant damage. Because of the small population, the volunteer rescuers are often also deployed in difficult operations.

File: 12- ICE SAR in Major incidents.pdf

Summer Search with Dogs - Andrea Pintar Croatia

We do not have high mountains and there are no search operations for buried people but many, many terrain searches. The police get the information about the missing person. If no criminal background is

involved, the search will be initiated. The practical work of the search dog squadron is a big success and the search speed amazing. If the dog is reliable and well trained, it can work with all rescuers.

File: 13-Croatia-Summerserach.pdf

Questions	Answers
Is every team issued a GPS system?	Yes, we try to equip the dogs with GPS. We only have a problem with transmitting. The work frequency is not yet optimal.
A search operation in the mountains of 1 km or more is very big. There are many resources necessary. Is it not better to transmit the data via radio?	Our commandant assigns the sectors very quickly. We concentrate only on the assigned sector. It is important to keep track of the dog's activity. There is a lot of information. Piece by piece this information has to be analyzed. We start the search in the center and broaden the search until we are at the end of the sector.

At the end of the first day, the chairman thanks everyone for their collaboration and presentations.

He points out that at 9:30 p.m. a movie about mountain rescue in Poland will be shown.

For the Minutes: Anne-Christine Rey-Gillioz

For the English Translation: Olivia A. Cashner