

Norway

National Standard for Avalanche Rescue established in 2007

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IKAR Avalanche Commission

Available resources in mountain (avalanche) rescue:

- Norwegian Rescue Dog Association
- Norwegian Red Cross Rescue Corps
- Norwegian Peoples Aid Rescue Teams
- Civil Defence teams
- Armed forces
- Norwegian Alpine Rescue Teams
- Police (helicopter service and rescue dogs)
- Norwegian state air ambulances
- SAR-helicopters / 100 sq. km. (Air Force-coordinated Sea Kings)
- Ski patrols in various resorts

In addition:

Organisations arranging courses in mountain skills and leadership, like NorTind (UIAGM(IVBV Norway), DNT (“alpenverein Norway”), and others.

CONCENSUS!

The National Standard for Avalanche Rescue in Norway

Main topics of consensus / Document structure:

1. Visual model / Groups according to level of proficiency
2. Rationale and background
3. General personal requirements / competence for rescue personnel
4. Specific requirements to personnel in avalanche rescue
5. Medical competence / requirements to personnel
6. Search methods:
 1. Avalanche dogs
 2. Transceivers
 3. RECCO
 4. Hasty search
 5. Scuff search / thorough surface search
 6. Spot probing
 7. Coarse probing (3-holes-per-step)
 8. Fine probing
7. Avalanche dogs – remarks on co-ordination and co-operation with other search means
8. Electronic search devices
9. The role of helicopters in avalanche rescue
10. Management and organisation
11. Medical care of avalanche victims
12. Risk assessment and handling
13. Quality requirements
14. Revision of the standard

1 Visual model – groups according to level of proficiency

Air rescue

- Air ambulance
- Police helicopter
- SAR-helicopters

Avalanche rescue teams

- Police; dedicated personnel
- ?Voluntary avalanche rescue teams
- ?Professional ski patrols
- ?Norwegian army avalanche rescue teams
- ?Approved avalanche rescue dog handlers

Other organised rescue service

- Ski patrols
- ?Ambulance service
- ?Voluntary rescue teams
- ?Norwegian Alpine Rescue Groups
- ?Mountain guides

Each of the 3 groups are allocated relevant points of reference in the National Standard

Punkt 3
Punkt 4
Punkt 5.2
Punkt 6.2.1
Punkt 6.2.2
Punkt 6.2.3
Punkt 6.3
Punkt 6.3.1
And so on.....

Punkt 3
Punkt 4
Punkt 5.3
Punkt 5.5
Punkt 5.6
Punkt 6.2.1
Punkt 6.2.3
Punkt 6.3
And so on

Punkt 3
Punkt 5.4
Punkt 6.2.1
Punkt 6.2.2
Punkt 6.3
Punkt 6.4.6

And so on

2 Rationale and background (specific to Norway, or...?)

- Many different rescue organisations, both professional and voluntary, with different training (level, methods, techniques, approaches) and from wide-spread bases are deployed to the same accident site
- Great variety in knowledge, training and experience
- Confusion and conflicts regarding choice of methods and rescue techniques
- Relatively few accidents per season in each region (The coast line of Norway is approx. 2000 km long...) – lack of experience and established “on-the-job” routines

A need to coordinate training and on-site rescue activities, in order to obtain:

- **usage of safe and optimal methods and rescue techniques**
- **better co-operation and communication**

optimal efficiency in the first phase of rescue

5 Requirements - medical skills

5.1 Aim

to prevent health risk to patient and own personnel
to initiate necessary and appropriate medical treatment as required

5.2 Air rescue (except police helicopters)

The service must be able to:

extricate avalanche victims according to standing procedures (IKAR)
administer advanced HLR
administer advanced pre-hospital treatment of avalanche victims
prevent and administer advanced treatment of hypothermia

5.3 Avalanche rescue teams

The service must be able to:

extricate avalanche victims according to procedures (IKAR)
administer basic HLR
prevent and administer basic treatment of hypothermia
give specific first aid treatment as relevant to avalanche victims

5.4 Other organised rescue service

The service must be able to:

administer basic HLR
extricate avalanche victims according to procedures (IKAR)
prevent and and administer basic treatment of hypothermia



6.3 Search methods and equipment

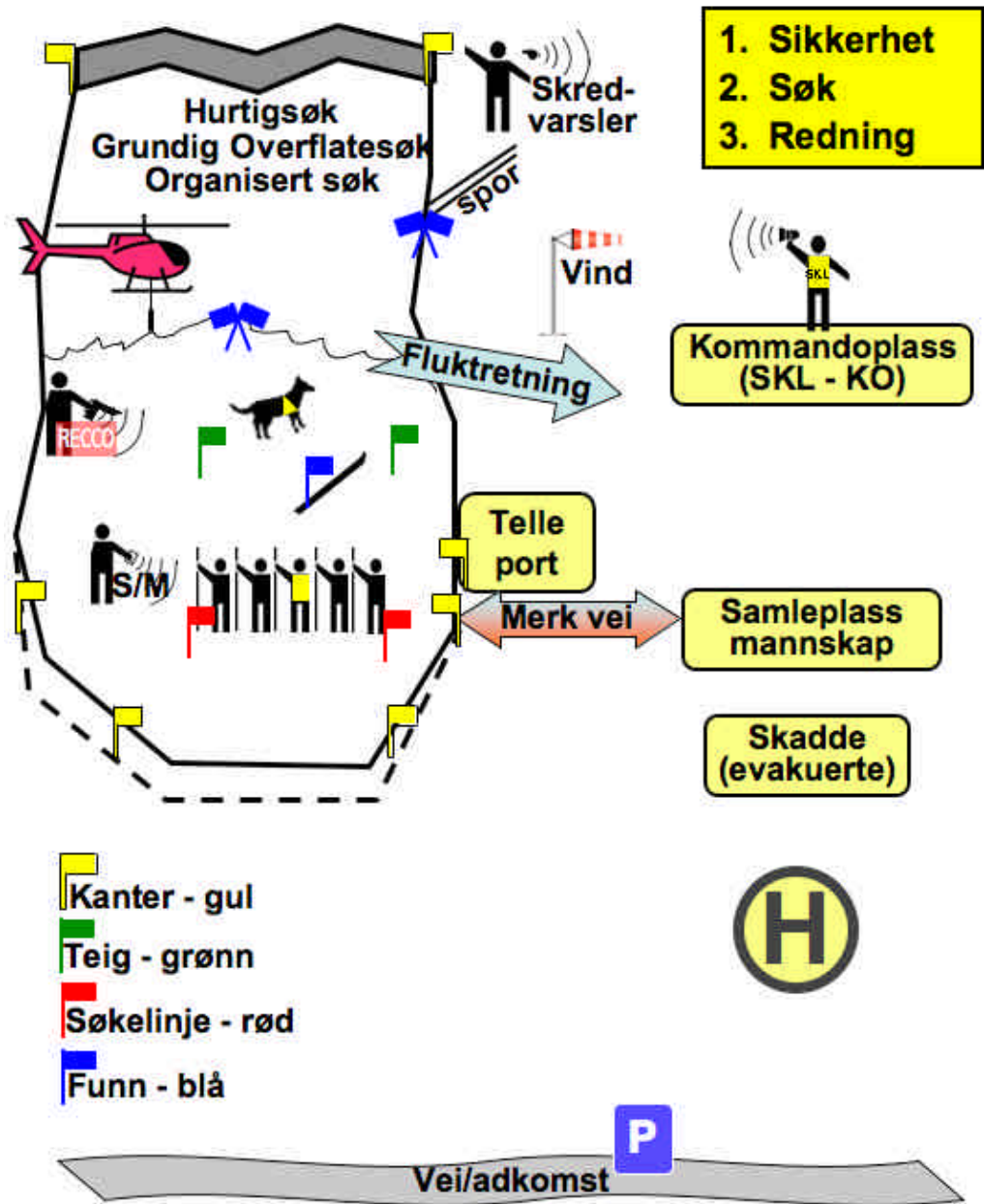
- Avalanche dogs
- Transceivers
- RECCO
- Hasty search
- Scuff search / thorough surface search
- Spot probing
- Coarse probing – 3-holes-per-step
- Fine probing

[Action plan – first phase of rescue](#)



6.5

Principles of organisation



14.1 Competence, periodic training and documentation

All [procedures](#) related to avalanche rescue is to be quality assured and described in organisational documentation and requirements. The procedures must include detailed descriptions of the topics included in the National Standard.

Personnel must be re-certified regularly, and the organisations must be able to provide documentation that requirements stated in the standard are fulfilled.



Norwegian National Standard for Avalanche Rescue

A tool for training, evaluation and *continuous improvement*

Thank You!
Questions?

Quote from Hans Jürg Etter:

“People often think that they are the best. It is better to take the best from all....”