

Memorandum of Understanding

on establishing

"MountainSafety.Info" (MSI)

Preamble

The signatories (hereafter called members) strive for promoting best practice in mountain safety and agree to cooperate for establishing "MountainSafety.Info" (MSI). This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlines the objectives and the terms and conditions of MSI.

General Values

1. All partners value the freedom of practice.
 - a. MSI does not seek to establish formal regulations on best practices in mountain safety.
 - b. MSI content will respect cultural diversity and refer to recommendations of MSI member organizations.
2. MSI is a non-commercial organization, acting in the general public interest as a non-profit organization, to provide up to date, peer reviewed information on best practice in mountain safety from experts in the field.
3. MSI is a self-sustaining entity, working in collaboration with other organizations to provide practical and useful information for use in the mountains.

Institutional Setup and Governance

1. MSI shall be established as a non-profit association governed by the provisions of the Swiss Civil Code (such as are UIAA, ICAR, IFMGA).
2. MSI Membership is limited to organizations and scientific institutions with global impact in mountain safety.
3. MSI will exclusively be governed by the MSI members. Potential members are UIAA, IFMGA, ICAR, ENSA, SLF and others within the above defined scope.

Organization and Participation in Workgroups

1. MSI content will be elaborated by working groups. For each topic to be covered one working group will be established; each group will include experts of MSI members as well as additional subject matter experts.
2. Working group members are selected based on appropriate representation and qualifications.
 - a. Each MSI member may nominate an expert in the respective field who fulfills the prerequisites so that each MSI member can contribute in a timely and pro-active approach.
3. Proposal and Initiative Right
 - a. Anybody has the right to propose a topic for discussion or make a specific suggestion on content by written proposal to a MSI working group.

Objectives

In the following the main MSI objectives are listed:

1. Develop an international knowledgebase containing best practice in mountain safety (an example is provided in the Appendix).
2. Take advantage of existing knowhow
3. Include existing and further develop content based on evidence
4. Promote standardization across user groups and application cases.
5. Provide the data in as many languages as possible using standardized terminology
6. Respect intellectual property rights in all use of data
7. Support a sustainable future development of the knowledge

Access to the Knowledgebase of MountainSafety.Info

1. Access to the data is based on a yearly subscription model and on a volume based license model, depending on type of use of the data.
2. Fair pricing is ensured by including the number of users in an organization as well as the GDP of the respective country.

3. Fees are used for author's compensation, workgroup expenses, operational costs of MSI and in particular for future development of its content.
4. Users can freely choose based on their requirements which content of the MSI knowledgebase they want to use.

Implementation and duration

This MoU shall take effect from the date when the last partner has duly signed, but no later than 15 December 2017; it shall remain in force for a duration of one year. This agreement may be amended or terminated upon mutual consultation and consent between the partners.

Appendix 1: Example of MSI content

Mountain Safety Knowledgebase

Safety, Accident Prevention and Rescue in Avalanche Terrain

Avalanche Rescue

Search

Probing

Probe lines

Coarse Probing

Slalom Probing

(Simplified sample of the database structure. Sample for one coarse probe line technique. Concept draft V 0.9, Manuel Genswein September 2016, all rights reserved)

SLALOM PROBING

Align left to right!

50 cm 50 cm 50 cm 50 cm 50 cm 50 cm 50 cm 50 cm

50 cm 50 cm

COMMANDS:
Commands are given by the probe line leader or a rescuer in the center of the probe line.

- 1: «probe»
- 2: «right»
- 3: «right»
- 4: «forward»
- 5: «left»
- 6: «left»
- 7: «forward»

As required:
«align left to right»
[Positions: •]

50' cm

Probing depth: 1st passage 1.5m
2nd passage 2.5m

Offset: change order of rescuers in the line (random offset)

Instruction Text:

Probe master is not required, at this stage it is often more efficient to use a rescuer in the middle of the probe line as improvised probe master.

The probing depth in the first passage is an optimization between:
"area search speed" (m²/rescuer/min)
"likelihood of survival / burial depth"
"percentage of buried subjects / burial depth"

After the first unsuccessful passage in coarse probing, apply it a second time.
A systematic offset of 25cm (1/2 grid width) is very difficult to maintain.
The offset of the grid for the second passage is more efficiently introduced by lining up the rescuers in another position in the probe line.
Every rescuer has a slightly different probing pattern which leads to a randomized probing pattern.

After a second unsuccessful application of course search, apply fine probing.
This must be done with a probe master and very strict marking.

Combine the search with dog teams as soon as possible: The scent cone has a better probability to reach the surface due to the perforation.
After fine probing in a strict manner, removal of the probed layers (1m safety margin to the unprobed debris) with a snow groomer should be considered.

Instruction Video:

Scientific Paper:
Slalom Probing ISSW 2014 Genswein et al

ICAR Recommendation:
AVA REC0011

Appendix 2: Example of MSI Logo



Signatures

UIAA

Name (in print): _____

Location, date: _____

Signature. _____

IFMGA

Name (in print): _____

Location, date: _____

Signature. _____

ICAR

Name (in print): _____

Location, date: _____

Signature. _____

ENSA

Name (in print): _____

Location, date: _____

Signature. _____

SLF

Name (in print): _____

Location, date: _____

Signature. _____

Draft