



Agenda ICAR Avalanche Rescue Commission Meeting
October 12-15, 2005, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

Welcome

Agenda, Thursday, 10/13/05, 09:00 – 12:00

1. Minutes from Zakopane (October 04), goals of the Avalanche Rescue Commission
2. Schedule of the Avalanche Rescue Commission meeting (translation)
3. List of participants, introduction of the members (name, position in rescue organization, delegate of a rescue organization, manufacturer or guest)
4. Information about the activities during the year 05, (procedure, 5 topics in 5 workgroups)
5. Information and discussion on the topics of the workgroups and first results
6. Avalanche accident data collection and statistics
7. Information and forum on the ICAR website (<http://www.ikar-cisa.org>)
8. Requests to the commission
9. Main topic 2006
10. Miscellaneous

**Minutes of the Avalanche Rescue Commission CISA IKAR
October 13, 2005 in Cortina, Italy**

Agenda: As published (including numbering).
No requests were made to add items to the agenda.

Chair: Hans-Jürg Etter, SLF Davos, President Avalanche Rescue Commission
Dale Atkins, CAIC Colorado, Vice-President Avalanche Rescue Commission

Participants: see sign-in roster

Welcome:

The President welcomes the participants and thanks all of them for their interest and collaboration.

1) No comments were made or objections raised on the minutes and amendments (goals of the Avalanche Rescue Commission) from Zakopane.

2) The President introduces Manuel Genswein as translator into English. Nathalie Werlen takes the minutes of today's meeting.

3) The sign-in roster / member list is passed around with the request to check the information and amend it as needed.

A round of introductions was started with Dale Atkins, who is the new Vice-President of the Avalanche Rescue Commission.

4) The President briefly explains the launch of the currently 5 workgroups in the Spring of 2005.

The request of a member to drop the ½ day of practical work in favor of work in the commission cannot be approved by the commission, due to a previous vote of the ICAR Delegate Assembly to reserve max. ½ day for outdoor work. The President leaves it up to the workgroups to come up with a different solution.

5) The workgroup leaders are asked to present their work of 2005 in 15 minutes and to answer potential questions.

Dale Atkins volunteered to compile the avalanche rescue glossary. He asked everyone to contribute actively, since he has received very little feedback to date.

The goal is to enhance an already existing glossary (avalanche prevention) with terminology related to avalanche rescue. The terms shall not only be translated, but also described clearly and unambiguously. The importance of clarifying the terminology in as many languages as possible, so that everyone shares a common understanding, is re-iterated. This workgroup is looking for members (speaking different languages, if possible) and the delegates are asked to collaborate actively. The terms and descriptions will be published on ICAR's website and/or at www.avalanche.it or www.slf.ch.

The following people volunteered for the following languages:

Andrej Coppe	Polish
Jan Peto	Slovakian
Albert Lunde	Norwegian
Richard Svedjesten	Swedish
Ernesto Basetti	Italian
Manuel Genswein	German
Dale Atkins	English
Others	?

François Sivardière speaks about **search strip widths**.

According to him, this is merely a matter of communication and not a technical issue. The essence of the request is to have manufacturers define, indicate, and instruct search strip widths for their devices instead of maximal ranges. The manufacturer of ARVA is willing to pursue this approach provided all the other manufacturers do the same and that the devices operate the same way. Hans-Juerg adds that some manufacturers already indicate their search strip width.

François explains that it is up to the manufacturers to define the search strip width. It should be done as practically as possible. Someone adds that the rule should be the same for a subject that is buried under one meter of snow as well as for a subject that is buried several meters deep. François would like to have the end users' question on what search strip width to apply answered.

François' task as a workgroup leader is to formulate a corresponding suggestion, which includes all the issues discussed. François mentions that written documents already exist in French and English, which he can distribute and he hopes for feedback from as many delegates and members as possible. At least a 2/3 majority would have to agree with the text.

The final vote on this subject will take place next year. Until then, everyone has to do their homework. François would like a quicker decision, because all the documents were already sent out last June, so he does not see why the commission should wait any longer.

Hans-Jürg sticks with the decision. As with all future recommendations approved by the Commission, the recommendation shall be open for discussion in the member countries for one year. Hans-Jürg asks who will co-author a final paper together with François. The following people volunteer: Franz Kröll, Bruce Edgerli, Martin Baumann, Ernesto Basetti, Patrick Giraudon, Willy Zurkirch, and Manuel Genswein.

6) Albert Lunde, ICAR data collection on avalanche accidents

He explains that, at the beginning of the new data collection in 2004, he was not sure what the individual field titles in the Excel avalanche accident table meant. There are probably issues with the interpretation of the technical terms. Therefore, he volunteers to provide a proposal in English, which he presents to the assembly. All modifications are accepted and will be translated into German and French by the end of the conference.

Additionally, the following items need to be clarified:

- Are ski patrollers to be considered part of organized rescue? Answer: **Yes**.
- Should the various snow sports be differentiated more? **Answers vary; keeping the current selection is preferred, unless new devices (such as the snowmobile) appear on the market.**
- How about the distinction between work-related and recreational accidents? **Open**.
- Should the nationality of the victims be included in the statistics? **Presumably not, because it is too tedious.**

These questions shall be answered definitively next year.

Corrections to previously submitted data will, of course, be included in the next update of the summary.

Heini Malue, checklist for rescuer safety (developed in Malbun in 2002)

- 1) When is the checklist applied?
- 2) Are there enhancements to the checklist?
- 3) Is the checklist even necessary?

A questionnaire on this checklist was sent to all members in German, French, and English. Many were filled out and returned:

- Such a checklist is only known in a few countries.
- Many countries have adapted or modified the checklist

- The countries working with checklists would like to make a few modifications
- A checklist template should not only be developed for avalanche rescue, but for rescue missions in general and adapted regionally.

PS: Walter Würtl will give a presentation on this subject in the next few days.

Heini asks whether this workgroup should continue its work. Answer: **Yes.**

Who would be willing to participate in addition to the existing workgroup members?

Nils Faarlund volunteers spontaneously. Others are welcome.

Hans-Jürg Etter, Minima for prototypes of rescue systems for organized rescue

Hans-Jürg distributes a paper regarding minima for prototypes for organized rescue. This proposal applies to the practical test phase in the search for buried avalanche subjects whether or not they are wearing additional technology. Amendments or modifications should be made.

The following comments are made:

- It should be mentioned that the weight of a final product should not exceed 5-6 kg.
- The word „minima“ should maybe be replaced with a less assertive and binding term.

A discussion evolves whether recommendations should be made for prototypes at all.

Various people, who were asked for test purposes, support the recommendation. Hans-Jürg hopes that further ideas will be added to this list, which will be scrutinized carefully. Members are also welcome to join this workgroup. Please send all feedback to Hans-Jürg.

6) The President asks everyone who has not yet submitted his or her avalanche data for the winter 04/05 to do so by the end of the conference.

7) The President reminds everyone that all the presentations, the avalanche accident data, and new information is published at www.ikar.cisa.org. The information is available to everyone. It is appreciated, if the ICAR Avalanche rescue Commission is cited as the source of the data.

8) The President informs that no requests were made to the Commission.

Albert Lunde would like to know how the Lutec System works (Aerial location of GSM cell phones). The President explains that the manufacturer was invited to demonstrate the device. The company has obviously renounced to do so for unknown reasons. Perhaps there will be more news next year. The President will send the two existing documents to Albert Lunde. Further information on the system will follow from F. Sivardière.

9) Main topic for the ICAR Conference 2006, suggestion: trends/developments in avalanche education, in avalanche rescue, and in the technical area.

10) The President asks if there are further topics, which need to be discussed now; written ideas and suggestions may be sent to the President at any time.

Clair Israelson proposes forming a workgroup on avalanche prevention. The suggestion is accepted. Clair is asked to make suggestions. Members are welcome to join this workgroup and are asked to contact Clair.

The President adjourns the meeting at 12:10 and thanks everyone for their contributions.

Cortina, October 13, 2005

For the minutes:

The President:

The Vice-President

Nathalie Werlen

Hans-Jürg Etter

Dale Atkins

The minutes on the presentations and presenters were written separately and are also available on the Internet under the commission.