

Annual report ICAR Prevention Workgroup October 2015

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The history regarding accident prevention within ICAR

Accident prevention has been an important topic for ICAR in its early days, in particular during the active time of the Vanni Eigenmann Foundation. After many years of close to no activity outside of accident prevention concerning rescue operations, the ICAR meeting in Åre, Sweden in fall 2011 again established a formal workgroup based on a proposal from the Swedish mountain rescue organization

About participating

Participating in the working group is voluntary and it is important to emphasize that this is a completely open group.

Aims and purposes

The purpose and aim for the work is to provide an efficient exchange of ideas as well as launching common studies and projects related to preventive safety. It is also about sharing experiences and to jointly monitor and support research and development work on preventive safety in mountainous areas.

The decision on how, if and when integration of the discussed strategies on the national level should take place fully remains in the hand of the respective country.

Preparations made in 2015

During the year, 2 video meetings has been arranged with the working group. The video meetings has worked well for its purpose and the planning and preparation regarding the workshop in Killarney was mainly made by members from the Swedish MSC and Krister Kristensen from NGI.

ICAR General meeting in Killarney 14th of October 2015

16 participants representing 13 organizations from 9 countries participated in a daylong workshop/work meeting where we focused on human factors and decision making together with 4 main topics where we tried to finish what we started up in 2013 and 2014. The main output from the workshop was a proposal to a new recommendation that was presented to the avalanche commission on the 15th and 16th of October. The commission voted for acceptance of our proposal which we are very satisfied with.

ICAR Recommendation regarding Accident Prevention

Recommendation Code

To help prevent incidents and accidents in the mountains, it is highly recommended to follow these principles:

- Seek appropriate training
- Use relevant decision-making tools/checklists
- Prior to departure plan alternatives to your main objective
- Constantly re-evaluate conditions and adapt decisions as necessary
- Establish an open communication culture within the group

Whereas these principles are equally valid for organized mountain rescue, refer to all ICAR recommendations for specific topics of mountain rescue.

Other issues that was discussed during the meeting in Killarney

a) Web portal with useful info for travelers

Iceland has implemented a first version regarding a web portal/service on the website of <http://www.safetravel.is/around-the-world/>

The proposal from our working group is that this information should be placed into the main ICAR website before next year's congress.

We do would like to kindly ask all participating nations who has not already done this to add their information on the following link.

http://www.genswein.ch/ICAR_Info_Portal_Template_and_Database.xlsx

b) CAAML- implement new data fields regarding accident statistics based on CAAML.

The draft proposal from last year was reviewed once more and Joe Obad from the CAA presented some thoughts for the future. We all agreed to add 3 more fields, Age, Gender and Nationality. This work is also discussed within the avalanche rescue commission.

c) ICAR mountain Safety Foundation

We also one again discussed the idea of ICAR Mountain Safety Foundation and agreed to continue this work in cooperation with the board of ICAR. This would be an important step to take in order to support the development of mountain safety projects and prevention of accidents in the mountain environment. The foundation will focus upon supporting projects that have a practical relevance for practitioners as well as support research needs and identified knowledge and needs but will not finance ordinary research but can be part of cooperation in research projects.

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d) The webbportal <http://icarmountainsafety.ning.com> has now been closed after a decision taken at last years congress. Instead the information will be placed within ICAR:s website.

/Per-Olov Wikberg, Swedish EPA