



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 of the Assembly of Delegates of the Terrestrial Rescue Commission

Place: Are, Hotel Holiday Club
Date: October 20, 2011
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Participants: Delegates of the Terrestrial Rescue Commission
Chairmen: Bruno Jelk and Gebhard Barbisch
Minutes: Fabienne Jelk

1. Welcome

Bruno Jelk welcomes all participants. He is pleased that so many are present, which will make these 3 days very active. There were 2 tragic accidents last year in which mountain rescuers lost their lives. Two colleagues briefly present how these accidents happened:

Accident #1: Italy, Ennio Rizzotti

Mount Pelmo, 3168 meters above sea level. The mountain is close to Cortina d'Ampezzo. Most alpinists take the normal route. The cliff on the north face is not as good. Two German mountain climbers climbed the Via Simon Rossi on September 1, 2011. Despite rock slides, the climbers chose this route. One of the climbers was hit by a rock. The other was not severely wounded. They made a distress call and asked for a helicopter. The weather was bad. It was foggy and a storm was moving in. In the afternoon a helicopter took off but could not reach the accident site. A team of rescuers ascended the normal route. At 7:30 p.m. the helicopter again attempted to get to the victims, which did not work. The rescuers who were on foot had to spend the night in a cave due to the storm. The next morning at 5:30 a.m. two rescuers were rappelled to the victims. After 5 minutes about 2800-3300 cubic meters of rocks came down. The two rescuers were hit by the rocks and died. The back-up ropes ripped. No one else was injured. The other mountain climbers were 20 meters to the side.

Accident #2: Pyrenees, Blaise Agresti

The accident happened at the beginning of September 2011, a training accident. There was a problem rappelling with 2 ropes of the same color. The first person rappelling down one of the ropes thought that that rope was the longer one.

There were a total of 53 deaths, two-thirds in training, one-third in operations; this should be taken into account.

Bruno Jelk wishes their relatives much courage.

He also welcomes the team of interpreters. Linda requests that the abstracts of the presentations be made available to the interpreters in a timely fashion so that they can prepare themselves.

2. Distribution of Ballots

The ballots are distributed.

3. Distribution of Forms for Activities with other Organizations

Organizations which took part in activities in other countries are asked to enter this into a list.

4. Point of Contact for the Countries

The participants are asked to fill out the form if there are changes to their point of contact.

5. Minutes from Slovakia

The minutes are approved.

6. ICAR Information

The information is outlined on the internet. There are no other remarks.

7. Internet Information

Gebhard Barbisch points out a couple of things:

When one registers on the home page, all information has to be entered. In addition, a search agent can be created, which you can assign a name. Categories as well as keywords can be entered. The easiest way to do this is with spaces. When you create a search agent, an e-mail with the link is sent to you as soon as a new document is available that matches your search criteria.

New forums were created. One of them is about remarks regarding Recommendation #1, in which there are no entries.

Question: How does one get a password?

Gebhard Barbisch: Through me, Gebhard Barbisch. I have to confirm that whoever is requesting the password is also the official delegate.

8. ICAR Recommendations

ICAR Recommendation #1:

In Slovakia the ICAR Recommendation #1 was taken off the net for now so that it can be discussed here in Sweden, and/or to edit it.

Gebhard Barbisch opens the discussion.

Question: What is contained in Norm EN 12275Q?

Gebhard Barbisch: This was recommended by Albert Wenk. The carabiner has to at least hold 3 metric tons in open position.

The recommendation is submitted for a vote. Hans Martin Henny and Blaise Agresti are appointed to count the votes.

The recommendation is carried by 32 votes to 1 and 2 abstentions. Therefore, this recommendation is valid and will be uploaded into the internet again.

Other open recommendations:

Recommendation #3: Canyoning

No discussion.

Recommendation #4: Static Ropes, Allowed Knots When Extending Ropes

No discussion.

Recommendation #5:

Theo Maurer: Is it enough in cable car rescue to use one rope?

Bruno Jelk: In cable car rescue one rope is enough. The recommendation is not directed at cable car and paraglider rescue but for crag rescue.

Gebhard Barbisch: It concerns back-up in case of rock slides or shearing, which is mentioned in the recommendation.

Theo Maurer: There should be an addendum to the recommendation that it only applies to crag rescue.

Vote regarding the addendum: 38 votes are for keeping the recommendation as is, with 1 nay vote. The recommendation will not be changed.

Recommendation #6: Braking on Static Ropes:

No discussion.

Recommendation #8: Winter Rescue Devices

They should be made in a way that they can be driven by one or two people. No discussion.

Recommendation #9: Systems in Mountain Rescue

Walter Christian, DRK: He is of the opinion that in the third paragraph the word "independently" should be redacted because otherwise the mountain rescue gives away their discretion to outside examination offices. There are things that the mountain rescues should examine themselves.

Bruno Jelk: What happens if an internal examiner checks something and there is an accident? This could lead to problems. If an independent examiner conducts the check, the organization is better covered in case of accidents.

Peter Veider: Dyneema ropes were checked to see if the system conforms to the ICAR recommendation and the ropes were certified. It was examined with Petzl. There was also an examination by TÜV (official German technical inspection agency). At first we were annoyed that it had to be done again. In Tyrol a lot of rescues are done terrestrially. Had we not done the TÜV, the rescue work in Tyrol would have to be stopped. The part about the independent institution should not be taken out because it is a fail-safe as it now has been checked in triple.

DRK: For a big rescue organization that is certainly affordable. However, there are small organizations that cannot afford this financially.

Question Gebhard Barbisch: Name a system that the DRK wanted to examine itself. The recommendation is only applicable in systems when part of it does not conform to the norm or it is not certified.

DRK: Basket stretcher type. Often the rope is only attached at the headend. This case is not specified by the manufacturer but is safe. The manufacturer will not be certifying it.

Gebhard Barbisch: This would be a use that is not in accordance with the user manual. Peter Veider had this problem with the Dyneema ropes. Petzl then released it.

DRK: We have tried that but it did not happen.

Gebhard Barbisch: I would not dare to examine this myself.

Bruno Jelk: There are no problems as long as one uses his own systems. However, as soon as third persons use the system, the system needs to be examined. It is about product liability.

Franz Lindenberg: The term „independent“ also means „recognized“. The way of examining the system is normed; the examination is documented. “Independent” should stay, but maybe there needs to be an addendum as to the criteria an examination office needs to fulfill.

Vote: Should the word “independent” stay in the recommendation?

Yes: 32 votes; Nay: 4; Abstention: None.

“Independent” stays. If an addendum is requested, it should be worked out and presented for a vote next year.

Franz Lindenberg: Organizations can examine, but it has to be discernible that the examination offices have to fulfill various criteria. It would make sense to integrate this aspect.

Vote regarding an addendum: Result: No, no addendum.

9. Motions to the Commission

Gebhard Barbisch: One keeps hearing about accidents. He requests that a form be created and accidents immediately entered so that not everyone has to have the same bitter experience.

Blaise Agresti: They created a unit which specifies and processes accidents. There are 2 people who examine accidents. It is not a legal investigation. The team then makes recommendations for prevention of such accidents. This has been done for a year now. Examined are all accidents: Helicopter accidents, failure of material, etc.

Bruno Jelk: Does ICAR have access to these documents?

Blaise Agresti: Internal police documents are part of these files. Part of the files could be made accessible. It is interesting how these documents are being worked out. The two people who examine the accidents are not members of the rescue team that was involved in the specific accident.

10. Motions to the Executive Committee

None.

11. Goals 2012

If there are enough topics for terrestrial rescue, a practical meeting will be held on Wednesday before the congress. A main emphasis could be crag rescue. A suitable crag is available in Poland.

Peter Veider: He met already with the Polish organizers yesterday. The Polish will be training on Dyneema ropes with them. It would be good if it could be documented that all this was conforming to the ICAR recommendation.

Bruno Jelk: Question to the assembly whether or not to hold a practical meeting.
Yes: 42 votes.

The meeting will be organized once enough demonstrations have been submitted.

Goal 2012: Crag rescue, terrestrial rescue. No other topics are requested.

12. Practical ICAR Meeting Terrestrial Rescue 2012

See agenda item 11.

13. Elections 2012

A new president will have to be elected next year. The candidates need to be announced by the end of June. The current president can make suggestions. Bruno Jelk suggests officially Gebhard Barbisch.

14. Miscellaneous

No requests to speak.

End of the Meeting: 9:45 a.m.

The Vice-President
Gebhard Barbisch

The President
Bruno Jelk

For the English Translation: Olivia A. Cashner