



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: Vysoké Tatry, Hotel Bellevue
Date: October 7, 2010
Time: 0830 hours
Present: Delegates of the Terrestrial Rescue Commission
Chairmen: Bruno Jelk and Gebhard Barbisch
Minutes: Fabienne Jelk

1. Welcome

Bruno Jelk warmly welcomes all participants as well as the different nations and organizations and wishes everyone a good meeting. The team of interpreters is also welcomed. Bruno Jelk points out that the presentation abstracts have to be supplied to the interpreters in good time. In the future this should work even smoother. Also this year mountain rescuers have lost their lives. A minute of silence is taken in their memory.

2. Distribution of Ballots

The ballots are distributed by Kurt Lauber and Fabienne Jelk; one ballot per organization.

3. Distribution of Form for Activities with Other Organizations

A list is circulated in which organizations that participated in training in another country last year should enter that info onto the form.

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 Zermatt

The minutes are approved.

6. ICAR Information

Bruno Jelk does not have any information.

7. Internet Information

Gebhard Barbisch requests to update the member details on a continuous basis, especially the e-mail address. If the e-mail address of the point of contact is incorrect, then they will not receive any more information. Information is only distributed by e-mail now.

8. ICAR Recommendations

Existing Recommendations:

Gebhard Barbisch shows the recommendations. They are available on the ICAR home page.

Request to speak by Andres Bardill, Alpine Rescue Switzerland: REC B 001, according to the minutes of Zermatt, was rejected. What is the status? Gebhard Barbisch explains that this still has to be revised. Suggestion: The recommendation will be removed from the Internet if there are doubts about it.

REC B 004: According to the minutes from Zermatt, the new knot will be presented by the Bavarian Mountain Rescue next year (that is 2010). The Bavarian Mountain Rescue states that the two-loop figure-eight should be added. Gebhard Barbisch asks if this knot can be presented. The Bavarian Mountain Rescue agrees. The recommendation REC B 004 will be a topic at this meeting.

Recommendations In-Situ:

Recommendation from the Medical Commission:

It is a paper of approximately 30 pages regarding safety and how to conduct a rescue. Bruno Jelk sees a problem with that. If the techniques need to be described, then it would have to be a textbook. If the techniques are described in this paper, then the rescuers will be limited. Much has to be improvised during rescues. With a description of techniques, one will be limited. If an accident happens and one technique was used that was not described in the paper, one suddenly has a legal problem as well. If the physicians and air rescuers want to produce such a paper, they can do that. Both Bruno Jelk and Gebhard Barbisch are not going to be participating in that, however.

Request to speak regarding the topic:

ÖBRD: Same opinion.

Andres Bardill, Alpine Rescue Switzerland: Supports the statement of Bruno Jelk. All recommendations that include a mix of rescue areas are problematic.

Voting: The Assembly agrees not to participate. No votes against.

9. Information Regarding Dyneema Rope Recommendation

Composition Dyneema Rope Recommendation:

Bruno Jelk states that a recommendation still has to be composed. It will more likely be a general recommendation for all new products coming on the market. Dyneema ropes have to be used with tested products. There was a meeting in Austria regarding this. Bruno Jelk hands the floor over to Gebhard Barbisch.

Gebhard Barbisch: Together with Albert Wenk this topic was discussed. At that meeting Albert Wenk explained that there can be parts that are not certified or for which no guidelines exist. The Dyneema rope has not been approved for securing people nor has it been certified. A draft for a recommendation was drawn up and is available on the home page.

Title: Systems in Mountain Rescue

Gebhard Barbisch explains that when such a system is utilized, one goes to the appropriate office with the whole system, including the uncertified or not approved parts. The system will be tested and clear guidelines are issued. The certification should be done by the manufacturer and not the mountain rescue organization. The mountain rescue organizations are responsible for the appropriate implementation in the field. The colleagues from Bavaria have experience in certifications.

Request to speak Mountain Rescue Bavaria: In the interim the system has been certified.

Question Gebhard Barbisch: Would the proposed recommendation be in sync with the course of action in Bavaria? Is the recommendation, according to the experiences made in Bavaria, useful?

Answer Mountain Rescue Bavaria: Absolutely. It corresponds.

Further questions and requests to speak:

Slovenia: Each rope should fulfill 5 different conditions. The Dyneema rope can only be used with special parts.

Gebhard Barbisch: Dyneema ropes have to be integrated into a certified system with the appropriate parts.

Danilo Skerbinek: New ropes need to fulfill certain conditions. He details a problem in this regard.

Mountain Rescue Bavaria: Explains the different conditions that have to be fulfilled for a certification.

Gebhard Barbisch: The problem that Danilo Skerbinek talked about has only minimally to do with the systems.

Danilo Skerbinek: Correct, but we also need an answer to this question.

Bruno Jelk: Ropes are used everywhere. The recommendation is not just about Dyneema ropes but about utilization of new products in rescue in general. The whole system needs to be certified. The manufacturer has to have it certified.

Peter Veider, ÖBRD:

It is about time for all rescues that, in the beginning, one works with systems and that the systems are certified. Every rescuer in Tyrol who works with Dyneema ropes has to go through 3 days of training. Question: Would the system that was developed in cooperation with Petzl have to be TÜV certified?

Gebhard Barbisch: Yes, that is correct.

Mountain Rescue Bavaria: That is correct. It has to be tested by an independent office.

Peter Veider, ÖBRD: The systems were submitted to TÜV. Mayrhofen, for example, participated in about 70 operations per year and all with the Dyneema system. For over 70 years we were out and about with cables which had not been certified. No one was complaining then.

DRK: Offers reservations. One has to make sure that the previous/present systems do not fall under this recommendation.

Gebhard Barbisch: A dynamic rope and a carabiner are a device that has to correspond to an established norm. The recommendation for systems is only important when the system consists of parts that do not correspond to the norm. Currently, this is a rope of a certain type, namely Dyneema ropes. Contrary to a mountain rope, the rope in its basic construction is not standardized for rappelling people. Cables have been used for a long time and are socially accepted. The development nowadays is much faster, though. It has to be established how we can work with the new devices without inciting legal problems. If an accident happens with a non-certified system, one is going to have a problem. If a certified system is not used according to the guidelines, one is going to have a problem. The recommendation only needs to be consulted if the system includes a part, a rope or a loop or something like that, which does not adhere to a norm. For systems that have been used for a long time, there is common usage. If it is used that way, there is no problem.

Further comments:

The norm does not describe how to work in the field.

Mountain Rescue Bavaria: Apples are confused with oranges. Certification is an EU law. It is not a technical norm. Certification is a means of putting something into circulation. Certification only exists because of EU law. The recommendation is very good. The only thing that does not fit is the EG.

Suggestion by Gebhard Barbisch: Sentences in the recommendation will be revised according to the German colleague's suggestions and then presented for a vote later during the meeting.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

10. Motions to the Commission

None.

11. Motions to the Executive Committee

None.

12. Goals 2011

Bruno Jelk asks if someone has suggestions for a goal for next year.

Peter Veider: There were incidents where the deployment started too enthusiastically, especially in avalanche accidents. A recommendation should be drafted in regards to when to deploy or when to stop the operation.

Bruno Jelk: This is the responsibility of the respective person in charge. It is difficult to compose a recommendation for this. The suggestion is taken down and will be referred to the Avalanche Commission. The participants should think about what the goal for 2011 could be.

13. Practical ICAR Meeting Terrestrial Rescue Commission

The practical meeting was a great success. Bruno Jelk thanks the delegates who had a demonstration. There were 13 demonstrations total. It was interesting that for the same topic different techniques were shown, all of which worked. That is how we can profit from each other.

Motions or suggestions regarding the practical meeting: None.

In 2012 another practical meeting will be held if topics are available. A goal will have to be established for the organization of the practical meeting. Bruno Jelk suggested that something in crags should be done in 2 years.

Bruno Jelk asks the participants by show of ballot to indicate whether they approve of this course of action. The participants agree. There are no opposing votes.

In crags one could use different techniques again, just like yesterday at the practical meeting.

Danilo Skerbinek: If you paid close attention yesterday, you could pick up several mistakes. Each demonstration should be assessed right then and there.

Jelk Bruno: Small mistakes happened. In Switzerland there is a guideline that in chair-lift rescue all persons have to be secured on the chair before the guard can be opened. This was not always the case yesterday.

Mountain Rescue Bavaria: There was a presentation that could have been done associated with this, but it had not been announced.

Gebhard Barbisch: The presentations could be made afterwards.

14. Miscellaneous

No requests to speak.

Presentation Klaus Opperer, Mountain Rescue Bavaria:

This is about standardization of gondola/chair-lift evacuations. Different films of gondola/chair-lift rescues are shown. Devices for gondola/chair-lift rescue have to safe,

easy, fast, (and approved). Each person has to be secured on a chair-lift before the guard is opened.

Questions: None.

File: 01-Bergwacht-Bayern_Seilbahnevakuierung.pdf

Presentation Hans-Martin Henny, Competency Center of the Army Mountain Troops

Talks about an accident that happened when two ropes were connected using a figure-eight knot. In Switzerland there is a recommendation that when one is roped all day with new impregnated ropes the figure-eight knot has to be tucked back so that it cannot undo itself. There was an accident during rappelling. Two ropes were connected with a figure-eight and, because of routine, were tucked back but tucked back the wrong way. The knot untied. Problems can also occur in rescue. The SAC wants to publish a recommendation not to use this knot anymore but to instead secure with a double fisherman's knot.

Questions: None.

File: 02-Henny-Zurueckgesteckter-Achter.pdf

Year in review for the organizations:

No requests to speak.

Bruno Jelk requests that when organizations have problems during a rescue to collect the information and then to present the incident so that accidents can be avoided. There was a carabiner break once during a rescue in Zermatt. Bruno Jelk reported this to ICAR. Ever since then steel carabiners are utilized. After the fact it was discovered that the carabiner break in Zermatt had not been the first one, but the other incidents had not been reported.

Hans-Martin Henny: Hospitals, pilots, etc. use CIRS. Last week it was decided within he associations that this will also be implanted in mountain rescue. A work group has been formed.

USA, Kirk Mauthner: Describes an accident during climbing. Three people were climbing. The belay device (Pro Traction) was not closed until there was tension on it and not as usual without tension. A fatal accident resulted.

Sweden, Hans Hansson: Informs about the meeting in Are. There is an information booth in the anteroom.

End of Meeting: 1030 hours

Vice-President

President

Gebhard Barbisch

Bruno Jelk

For the English Translation: Olivia A. Cashner

