



## International Commission for Alpine Rescue

### Minutes of the Plenary Meeting ICAR Chamonix 2008 Plenary Session, October 11, 2008

Hermann Brugger, President of the Medcom, calls the meeting to order and welcomes all the participants.

Mr. Jean-Louis Verdier, Vice Mayor of Chamonix talks about the tragic avalanche accident on the Mt. Blanc du Tacul. The entire population was heavily affected, and the event was traumatizing for many residents as well as for the mountain rescuers.

The Chief of the PGHM, M. Régis La Verne, presents the details (8 injured – 8 missing – too dangerous for a further search, etc.)

It was paramount to ensure the rescuers' safety, and that turned out to be challenging. The presentation and further details cannot be made available as this is an ongoing investigation.

#### **Avalanches in the Summer – Xavier Ledoux**

The issue at hand is hypothermia – we have to react quickly because trauma, wet and poor clothing allow hypothermia to set in quickly. It is especially important to monitor core temperature regularly and often with an appropriate thermometer.

**File: 22-Ledoux-Font-Sancte.pdf**

#### **Training and Competence – Fidel Elsensohn, ÖBRD**

Fidel presents statistics on medical training activities for mountain rescuers in ICAR countries. The time period over which medical training is conducted and the level of training vary largely from country to country.

50% of the trainers know the standards and updates of ICAR. Basic Life Support remains the most important topic. This has to be trained on an ongoing basis in order to be able to be applied successfully in the field.

Medical standards should be clearly defined in ICAR. Trainers must be qualified and competent. The proper equipment must be known and its use practiced. Initial and continuing medical training must constitute an integral part of a mountain rescuer's training.

**File: 23-Elsensohn-Medical-Training.pdf**

**Trauma First Aid– G. Sumann, ÖGAHM**

As an anesthesiologist, he presents methods for shock treatment, IV administration, blood pressure management, etc. A discussion is underway on what impact the amount of intravenous fluids administered has on a patient's outcome.

**Intravenous Therapy, Less Can Be More – Oliver Reisten, KWRO**

Oliver shares experiences and conclusions. An attempt is being made to better gauge the amount of IV fluids to administer, especially in connection with head trauma and hypothermia.

**File: 24-Reisten-less-can-be-more.pdf**

### **Virtual Communities and Social Networks - Dale Atkins**

Virtual communities and links are very important in today's society. They allow an unlimited exchange of information and experience. The number of missions is constantly rising, and the burden for rescue personnel is increasing. Many things are being questioned. In the past, people knew each other a lot better and had more direct contact. Today there is a trend to anonymity, and personal acquaintances are getting rarer. Various Internet technologies allow an indirect exchange between the public and rescue personnel, e.g. the search for Steve Fosset.

**File: 25-social-net-Atkins.pdf**

### **Mountain Safety Programs - Clair Israelson, CAA**

Over the past few years, Clair Israelson has conducted a survey on winter mountain safety programs. He presents the results of the survey. The results shall also help in developing further measures to enhance mountain rescuers' safety. When things evolve normally, procedures are usually straightforward; however, when the unexpected occurs, it is often difficult to make the correct decisions.

**File: 26-Israelson-Mountain-safety-programms.pdf**

### **International Disaster Relief - Gebhard Barbisch, ÖBRD**

Gebhard gives an overview of international disaster relief. He presents the charters of the UN, EU and national organizations. Relief personnel must be able to operate in the disaster zone without outside help. Further valuable information can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int). Rescue personnel participating in international operations must abide by international laws and regulations. Only rescuers used at a national level should operate on international missions.

**File: 27-Barbisch-Internationale-Katastrophenhilfe.pdf**

### **Training Center of the Bavarian Bergwacht in Bad Tölz, Heini Malue, BWB Zenter**

In a specifically constructed building, mountain rescuers can practice various rescue techniques, including training with "hovering helicopters".

**File: 28-BWB-Ausbildungszentrum.pdf**

### **Climbing Accident Mission - Patrick Fauchère, President of the Air Rescue Commission**

P. Fauchere presents a climbing accident, in which the victim ended up hanging upside down. He passed away during the mission. The accident occurred on the Clocher du Portalet. The cause of death is not known to Patrick.

**File: 29-Fauchere-Clocher du Portalet.pdf**

**Standards and Regulations - Patrick Fauchère, President of the Air Rescue Commission**

P.Fauchere raises critical questions on the standardization of rescue equipment. Some standards are questionable, because they can impede rescue operations and can lead to awkward situations.

**Files: 30-Regulations versus operations\_08.pdf, 31-Ground Safety - Office Safety.wmv**