

NIF BC SAR Rope Rescue Program Update Project

2017/18 First Quarter Report (to April 1 to June 30, 2017)

EMBC was successful in arranging with the National SAR Secretariat to extend the project through the 2017/18 fiscal year.

At EMBC request, the Project Management Team drafted new Rope Rescue Provincial Operating Guidelines in April, but review of the drafts and EMBC progress with the project in general was delayed by priorities associated with exceptional spring flooding and wildfire events.

Curriculum Development – As intended, testing videos and reports were posted on the BCSARA public site, while draft Awareness, Technician 1 and Technician 2 manuals became available in April on the members-only site for review and comment and to support orientation to DCTTRS and the rest of the new curriculum. Throughout the quarter, the PMT received comments, questions and suggestions about the draft manual contents as teams began to familiarize themselves with the pending curriculum changes. Input will continue to be welcome until October 2017, when the PMT will begin to prepare final versions of the manual and its derivative products.

Instructional Tools – An initial printing of 300 copies of the first draft edition of Field Guide, based on the new draft manual, was delivered in May for EMBC distribution to Rope Rescue practitioners as they attend transition workshops. Dynamic Rescue Systems also presented EMBC with a draft app based on the field guide and commenced work on a set of instructional field sheets. The Project Management Team continued to review draft versions of the training videos.

Training in the New Curriculum – The NIF Project's responsibility for training personnel in the new curriculum was met through provision of the four workshops with Kirk Mauthner held in the autumn of 2016 and in January 2017. EMBC had intended to have the JIBC deliver transition training workshops with an assessment component as a step toward making teams operational in the new techniques. No progress was made with this during the 1st Quarter. However, SAR volunteers who had attended the January Squamish workshop organized regional rope rescue workshops in Clearwater and Sumas which introduced over 100 rope team members to aspects of the new curriculum.

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