

NIF BC SAR Rope Rescue Program Update Project

2017/18 Third Quarter Report (October 1 to December 31, 2017)

Curriculum Development – Throughout the 3rd Quarter, the PMT worked intensively on refinements to the three sections of the manual. Perhaps because most of those who accessed the April drafts of the manual on the BCSARA members' site were preoccupied with familiarizing themselves with the DCTTRS techniques and other new curriculum topics, the PMT received specific comments and suggestions on the manual from very few practitioners. However, the contributions received significantly helped both to expose numerous “devils in the details” and to clarify and refine content. By the end of the quarter, after considerable work on the text and illustrations, the manual awaited only a last review by Kirk Mauthner to be finalized and presented to EMBC. Drawing on experience from internal training and the JIBC Transition Workshops, the PMT also developed final drafts of the competency evaluation and assessment rubrics for the Technician 1 and 2 levels for use in internal and formal course training.

Instructional Aids – As the manual text and illustrations evolved, the PMT completed refinements to the draft instructional field sheets and passed the masters back to Dynamic Rescue Systems for production and delivery to EMBC. Similar refinements were incorporated into the Field Guide master pdf. Although there are currently no plans to publish the updated Field Guide as a hard copy, upon approval by EMBC, the master pdf will form the basis of the BC Wildland Rope Rescue app to be accessible through BCSARA.

Training in the New Curriculum – With courses in Nelson, Clearwater, Prince George and Chilliwack, the JIBC completed its 2017 delivery of 6 regional Transition Workshops to a total of 96 participants. Their experience will reinforce the various rope rescue teams around the province that have continued to practice the new curriculum techniques internally since release of the manual draft in April. Including an evaluation rubric in the transition training assists EMBC in recognizing the capability of particular teams to use DCTTRS operationally, and another round of regional transition workshops early in 2018 will further improve confidence in this area. However, with many teams now training in the new techniques, EMBC recognizes that DMDB proficiencies may be declining. During the transition period, SAR Managers and Rope Rescue Team Leaders should be guided by the RADeMS Response Capability Scoring process in matching a team appropriately to a particular operational situation.

With continuing practice at the team level, supported early in the new year by the project's various instructional aids, many practitioners are expected to be ready for formal Technician 1 evaluation in 2018. The issue of team member attrition has been recognized and EMBC, BCSARA and the JIBC have commenced planning toward offering both a full Technician 1 course and a Technician 1 evaluation as early as practicable in 2018.

Provincial Operating Guidelines – With input from Subject Matter Experts and the PMT, EMBC has continued to work on the Provincial Operating Guidelines and training model for the new rope rescue curriculum and certifications.

Next Steps – In December, BCSARA employed a consultant to develop and initiate implementation of its Technical Committee concept early in 2018. The Rope Rescue subcommittee is expected to provide a pool of subject matter experts to support BCSARA, EMBC and the various other players involved in delivering and refining the BC SAR Rope Rescue program in the years ahead.

The JIBC plans to offer six more regional Transition Workshops from April to June 2018, with specific dates and locations yet to be determined.

As the owner of the project, EMBC will direct use and distribution of the various products, complete the updating of Provincial Operating Guidelines for Rope Rescue and continue to define the processes by which the new curriculum will be applied to training and will be revised over time.

After over two years, the work of the NIF Project Management Team will end by March 2018 with the delivery of the various curriculum and training products that have been in development for some two years, and with submission of a final report. We have been fortunate to work with highly motivated and dedicated colleagues, contractors, subject matter experts and agency staff. We have particularly appreciated the patient support of the rope rescue community as this complex project has progressed through a number of challenges and delays, and we trust that the results will at least come close to meeting all of our high expectations.

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