

NIF BC SAR Rope Rescue Program Update Project

2016/17 Third Quarter Report (to December 31, 2016)

Third Quarter project activities focused on components of Milestones 5, 6 and 7 (curriculum development, instructional tools and instructor training).

Curriculum Development – Through November and December, in consultation with Kirk Mauthner, the Project Management Team and curriculum development contractor worked intensively to refine the manual text and illustrations, based on experience and inputs from the participants in the three “train the trainer” courses delivered in September, October and November. The workload associated with the manual refinement process proved to be very heavy in order to ensure that text and illustrations were clear, consistent and accurate in describing the details of the new techniques. Draft DACUMs and lesson plans developed in the Second Quarter were shared with the JIBC and its Rope Rescue Instructors and appeared to require little refinement, as no feedback was received.

Instructional Tools – Because the instructional tools – a field guide, videos an app, and instructional sheets – were all to be based on the detailed manual, refinement of which was still continuing through the Third Quarter, the instructional tools contractor was able to make only limited progress over this period, with a primary focus on the field guide. Once again, the necessary attention to detail proved time consuming.

Training in the New Curriculum - On September 19-21, October 8-10 and November 25-27, Basecamp Innovations (Kirk Mauthner) delivered training sessions in Invermere and Squamish to a total of 36 rope rescue practitioners, including available JIBC Instructors and some Rope Rescue Team Leaders. The September draft of the new manual was distributed to these participants for reference and feedback. This training did not include a formal evaluation component, but participants were encouraged to share their experience of the new techniques with their rope team members as a first step toward general dissemination of the new system throughout the BC SAR community. The JIBC and EMBC continued to considering options for spreading the update training more widely through the BC SAR rope rescue community.

Next Steps - EMBC, BCSARA and the JIBC will continue to work on the details of the new delivery model as it will be applied in 2017. Initially, the JIBC is expected to deliver regional transition training workshops as soon as they can be organized. Meanwhile, EMBC is inviting a selection of 16 of the previous Basecamp training sessions participants to a final Basecamp Innovations workshop in Squamish on January 20-23. The workshop is intended both to prepare these individuals to instruct in the new curriculum and to ensure that the manual text and illustrations are technically accurate. The refined manual will then feed preparation of the new curriculum support materials (field guide, instructional videos, app and instructional cards) before March 31, 2017.

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