

NIF BC SAR Rope Rescue Program Update Project

2016/17 Fourth Quarter Report (to March 31, 2017)

Fourth Quarter project activities focused on completing and preparing to release the products of Milestones 5 & 6 (curriculum development & instructional tools) to support internal orientation to the new system, and on EMBC/JIBC planning for the regional transition training and evaluation courses to be delivered by the JIBC. EMBC received permission from the National SAR Secretariat to extend the project to the Fall of 2017 in order to modify the new curriculum in the light of field experience.

Curriculum Development – Throughout the quarter, in consultation with Kirk Mauthner, the Project Management Team and curriculum development contractor worked with EMBC to finalize the working drafts of the very detailed new manual for distribution to the BC SAR rope rescue community. [The contractor previously completed a DACUM, a course plan, an assessment rubric and a full suite of lesson plans for the Technician 1 level, a DACUM, course plan and assessment rubric for the Technician 2 level and a DACUM for the Awareness Level. These products have been available for review by the JIBC and its rope rescue instructors since September 2016 to assist with future training.](#)

Instructional Tools – Though significantly delayed by ongoing refinements to the manual, Dynamic Rescue Systems, the contractor producing the instructional tools for the new techniques, was able to deliver the field guide [and some of the instructional videos](#). The remaining videos, instructional sheets and the app, based on the field book, [will be available later in the Spring after they have been reviewed by EMBC](#).

Training in the New Curriculum – The January 20-23 Basecamp Innovations workshop in Squamish was successful in preparing 16 participants to instruct in the new techniques and in helping to finalize the manual text and illustrations. Once again, this training did not include a formal evaluation component. Basecamp provided EMBC, the JIBC and participants with a PowerPoint presentation useful in presenting the new techniques to rope rescue practitioners.

Next Steps – EMBC is working with the National SAR Secretariat to implement the extension of the project and is organizing the release of the new curriculum materials to the BC SAR community, tentatively in April. [After April 18th, testing videos and reports will be posted on the BCSARA public site, while the Awareness, Technician 1 and Technician 2 manuals will be available on the members-only site](#). This will both support internal training in the new system and initiate the feedback process leading to refinement of the new training program later in 2017. Following the January Squamish workshop, a number of participants are systematically introducing their rope teams to the new curriculum and are planning volunteer-organized regional training workshops at various times in 2017 to introduce and practice the new techniques. EMBC is also working with the JIBC to schedule regional [transition](#) workshops, probably in May and June, that will include an evaluation component to qualify current RRTMs and RRTLs in the Rope Rescue Technician 1 competencies. The current proficiency of particular team members in Technician 2 skills (primarily over the edge) will be recognized on an interim basis until formal training and evaluation in Technician 2 skills is introduced, following the initial push to develop competency in the foundation Technician 1 skills. BC SAR Rope Rescue Teams are encouraged to build proficiency in the new techniques, but no team may use these techniques operationally without specific authorization from EMBC. [Policies and guidelines for](#)

the training and operational aspects of the new rope rescue are being developed by EMBC as part of the extended NIF Project.

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