



New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

New Zealand Search and Rescue
Consultative Committee Meeting
1.15pm – 3.45pm, Wednesday 21 July 2010
Maritime New Zealand Boardroom
10th Floor Optimisation House
1 Grey Street
Wellington

Attendees:

Carl van der Meulen (NZSAR)
Bruce Reid (Coastguard)
John Scobie (LandSAR)
Leonce Jones (MSC)
Amy Greig (MoT)
Bruce Johnston (Police)
Mike Davies (DOC)
Duncan Ferner (NZSAR)
Rachel Roberts (NZSAR)

Mike Sheridan (SARINZ)
Colin Small (Coastguard)
Darryl Carpenter (MSC)
Rodney Bracefield (RCCNZ)
John Seward (RCCNZ)
Brendan Comerford (MOC)
Gerry Pins (Police)
Jeff Sayer (AREC)

Apologies:

Nigel Clifford (RCCNZ)
Steve Kern (CAA)
Hadyn Smith (LandSAR)
Dave Shearer (SARINZ)
Brett Sullivan (SLSNZ)
David Waters (Ambulance NZ)
Roger Brown (MoT)

Absent:

Simon Eichelbaum (NZDF)
Jim Stuart-Black (NZFS)

1. Welcome

Carl van der Meulen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked MNZ for the use of their facilities.

2. Minutes from Last meeting

The minutes from the previous Consultative Committee meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Strategic Discussion – SAR Volunteer Issues

NZSAR continues to facilitate ongoing discussions regarding SAR volunteer issues.

4. Service Level Agreement Monitoring Report for the Apr – Jun Quarter

Police

Summary for the 1 Apr 10 – 30 June 10 Quarter

- 598 lives designated as being at risk
- 56 lives saved
- 179 people rescued
- 183 people assisted
- 169 people discovered not to be at risk
- 31 people perished

Summary for the 1 July 09 – 30 June 10 Year

- 2,361 lives designated as being at risk
- 175 lives saved
- 651 people rescued
- 808 people assisted
- 695 people discovered not to be at risk
- 111 people perished

RCCNZ

Summary for the 1 Apr 10 – 30 Jun 10 Quarter

- 270 lives designated as being at risk
- 11 lives saved
- 38 people rescued
- 213 people assisted
- 8 people perished

Summary for the 1 Jul 09 – 30 Jun 10 Year

- 1,242 lives designated at being at risk
- 105 lives saved
- 220 people rescued
- 787 people assisted
- 130 people perished.

Co-ordinating Authorities

Issues and Updates:

- Of the 130 people reported as perished by RCCNZ, 99 were in the NZSRR and 31 in other SRRs. These figures include the 74 from the *Princess Ashika* sinking.
- The database provided by the Coordinating Authorities are currently being normalised for use in the GIS project.

LandSAR New Zealand

Summary of LandSAR Report for the Quarter

- 1,031 LandSAR volunteers used during the Quarter
- 7,664 Volunteer hours provided
- 151 people were designated as being at risk during these SAROPs
- 2 lives were saved
- 44 people were rescued
- 74 people were assisted
- 12 people perished
- 18 people were not located.

LandSAR Issues and Updates:

- LandSAR have reported a significant increase in activity for this Quarter, however this is from an increased level of reporting compliance from LandSAR groups.
- LandSAR held its first “LandSAR Awareness and Fund Raising Week” in June to raise funds and awareness.

Summary of LandSAR for the Year

- 2,432 volunteers provided
- 16,833 volunteer hours provided
- 139,617 training hours reported
- 25,293 volunteer administration hours reported for the year.

Coastguard

Summary of Coastguard report for the Quarter

- 852 Coastguard volunteers used during the Quarter
- 1,401 volunteer hours provided
- 152 people were designated as being at risk during these SAROPs
- 2 lives were rescued
- 65 people were assisted
- 7 people perished

Coastguard Issues and Updates:

- 5 new and 1 refurbished Coastguard Rescue Vessels have been completed over the last Quarter
- Coastguard is making progress on the review and reproduction of the Marine SAR Management Manual.

SLSNZ

Summary for the SLSNZ Report for the Half Year

- 162 SLSNZ volunteers used during the half
- 229 volunteer hours used during the half
- 74 people designated as being at risk
- 26 lives saved
- 16 lives rescued
- 31 people assisted
- 1 person perished

Summary of SLSNZ Activity for the Year

- SLSNZ provided assistance for 100 SAROPs
- 490 volunteer hours provided
- 143 people designated as being at risk
- 31 lives saved
- 33 lives rescued
- 77 people assisted
- 2 people perished

AREC

Summary of the AREC report for the Quarter

- 37 AREC volunteers used during the half
- 366 volunteer hours provided
- 12 people designated as being at risk
- 1 life saved
- 2 people rescued
- 2 people assisted
- 4 people not located
- 2 people perished

Summary of the AREC report for the year

- 126 AREC volunteers used during the half
- 852 volunteer hours provided
- 57 people designated as being at risk
- 7 lives saved
- 20 people rescued
- 16 people assisted
- 7 people not located
- 4 people perished.

There was some discussion after this report was presented. The Secretariat Manager raised his concern that there is too much inconsistency between what is reported by the coordinating authorities and the SLA partners. Police have agreed to assist the SLA partners in reviewing submitted reports. The NZSAR Secretariat advised that the SAR sector needs to be careful about how the figures in the report are used.

5. Sector Update

SARINZ

It has mainly been business as usual for SARINZ. Some training is now being conducted across the wider emergency services/management sector. Changes that are happening in the education sector have training implications for the SAR sector. SARINZ noted that many SAR volunteers seek specific skills rather than qualifications.

Coastguard

Coastguard (CNZ) has had a busy quarter, although there has been the usual seasonal downturn in category 1 & 2 SAR incidents. CNZ noted its desire to have an input in to the Police SAR review. CNZ is working with MNZ and Police on the review of the Marine SAR Operations Manual (sponsored by NZSAR).

From 1 July with a new CNZ reporting system went online which is working well to date. The CNZ annual conference will be held in September in Taupo, with some international representatives attending. CNZ will distribute the names of speakers and Coastguard extended an invitation to attend the conference to all Consultative Committee members.

LandSAR

LandSAR are developing a policy on age restrictions for operational members. Haydn Smith (CEO) has been invited to attend and present to an emergency services seminar being held in late September in Australia. LandSAR have updated their logo to incorporate the words Search and Rescue.

LandSAR is working through volunteer insurance issues. Some members are still facing increased premiums, and one member has been turned down for mortgage protection insurance because of his involvement with LandSAR. Following general discussion, CNZ informed the meeting that they will be meeting with the ACC tomorrow to discuss compensation for volunteers.

MSC

MSC noted that there have been several alpine related deaths recently. MSC has been highlighting their safety and prevention messages. MSC noted that Ski Fields have been getting more involved in safety messages regarding winter sports in their areas and which is encouraging. MSC are using the opportunity of an accident involving a hunter to highlight outdoor safety messages to hunters.

MSC are currently rebuilding their website – the updates will enable the site to be more user friendly and will include new graphics etc. The accord for the Outdoor Safety Code has been agreed to by partner organisations. A proposed website will incorporate the safety messages, and will also include the boating and water safety messages.

The MSC AGM will be held in September; one of the main focuses at the AGM will be recruiting volunteers and keeping volunteer numbers healthy. MSC recently attended an OCVS meeting where the draft *Community-Government Relationship Agreement* was presented. MSC noted that the new agreement was very well received. NZSAR will forward the draft agreement to the sector.

RCCNZ

RCCNZ have recently been holding air observer training, run jointly between Police and RCC. RCCNZ will soon publish its air observer training programme to run over the next 12 months.

The independent review for the *Tafadzwa* incident has been completed, RCCNZ were happy with the outcome of the review (the review is available at www.nzsar.org.nz). RCCNZ gave an update on the recommendation in the review relating to the use of fish spotters for SAR operations. RCCNZ may have found a new volcano in the Pacific.

Police

The MOUs between Police, LandSAR and Coastguard are progressing. Police is working on the Marine SAR operations manual with CNZ. Police thanked

NZSAR Secretariat for successful workshops held over the past year. Police members have found the workshops very beneficial.

The next two SAR Incident management courses will be run at the Police College in October 2010 (replacing the February courses). Police IT are working on the transfer the P130 database from Lotus Notes to Microsoft Outlook.

Police recently attended the Alzheimer's NZ Workshop and found it very useful. NZSAR was pleased to hear that the Police relationship with Alzheimer's organisations is going well. Police are working on an MOU with Alzheimer's NZ.

Police SAR Coordinators workshop will follow the LandSAR conference in October. The *Lady Liz 4* should be arriving in Wellington in August.

MOC

There has been a seasonal slowdown in activity. MOC are working through international compliance issues (regulations and specifications) for the GMDSS network, and on updating their SELCAL system. MOC only have 1 trainee at present, all others (18) are fully qualified. MOC have been dealing with requests for assistance from the Tongan Coast Stations.

DoC

Operationally nothing to report from Aoraki/Mt Cook, DoC have now linked up with Police for their reporting. DoC are working with MSC on avalanche risk mapping, and have signed up to the Outdoor Safety Code accord. Currently awaiting outcome of Minister of Labour safety review of Tourism, DoC expect there will be some implications for SAR here. DoC is currently developing a visitor investigation guideline to be used when fatalities occur on DoC managed land. DoC is working on an MOU with Police for SAR operations on DoC land.

AREC

AREC have been quite over the last few months. Blenheim have a new SAR communications caravan. The AREC section in Tauranga is very active and has recently secured some funding. AREC currently replacing older equipment as funding allows. The eText system is working well in areas that it is used.

6. NZSAR Workshops

6 workshops were completed in the last financial year, they were:

Land Communications

25 people attended

Held in Wellington, October 2009

Hoist

120 people attended

Held at Ohakea, November 2009

Wander

44 people attended

Held in Auckland, March 2010

Marine SAR

113 people attended

Held in Wellington, May 2010

A lot of issues came out of the Marine workshop, the NZSAR secretariat will follow up on these.

Avalanche

48 people attended

Held in Twizel, June 2010

On Scene Coordinator

53 people attended

Held in Wellington, June 2010

- Total of 403 people attended the workshops
- Each workshop addressed specific issues
- NZSAR have noticed a positive shift within SAR sector culture.
- NZSAR looking to send survey's to attendees of workshops to get feedback on how they went from a participant's perspective. NZSAR secretariat understands this can be quite time consuming but also thinks the information received doing this would be very helpful.
- Overall all workshops were very successful and the NZSAR Secretariat received lots of positive feedback.

Future NZSAR Training and Workshops

There is less funding available for NZSAR training and workshops in the next financial year. With the funds available NZSAR intend to:

- Develop and run 2 – 3 OSC Courses
- Run fixed wing air observers refreshers – 6 courses, 116 people
- Run rotary wing air observer refresher – 7 courses, 112 people
- Run fixed wing air observer training – 1 course, 30 people
- Support 10 Police District major SAREXs
- Support SAR sector prevention initiatives
- Redevelop incident management courses (topic 14)

Run future workshops on:

SAR Aviation – to be run by RCCNZ

SAR Trainers and Educators

SAR Technology (to include Tracking, Communications and Visual Technologies)

NZSAR are looking to outsource the running of the workshops to SAR organisations this year, it is expected workshops will cater for around 20-30 people.

Coastguard raised some questions they had around the Training and Educators workshop – NZSAR and Coastguard to discuss further.

Any feedback relating to the proposed workshops should be directed back to the NZSAR Secretariat within 1 week.

7. Communications Review

NZSAR appreciated the participation from SAR organisations. It appears NZSAR communications efforts are about right (content/channels/frequency). NZSAR will improve online/email access to Link newsletter and will refine communication(s) to focus on preferred content.

8. Volunteer Study

A draft copy of the Volunteer Study has been distributed, all feedback welcomed. A final copy of this document will go to the Council meeting on 4 August.

The study focuses on 5 main points:

- Demographics – could target more females and more people in the 20-29 age bracket.
- Impact – will update with figures from the 09/10 year, but note that the FTE from volunteers for the 08-09 year was 200.4
- Motivations – confirm the FRSITO study of altruism, but also note the consumption motivation, especially with training and retention issues
- Common issues – mainly relate to the use of the volunteers' time with training and non-SAR workloads
- Linkages – no new linkages identified

It was requested that the paragraph in the costs section talking about insurance issues be expanded. The meeting also requested that the paragraph on having a full time Police SAR Coordinator in each Police District be reinforced.

Any further feedback on the draft study is to be provided by Wednesday 28 July.

9. Discussion – Cost Recovery for SAR

NZSAR is looking to create a policy regarding SAR costs. The current situation is this:

- NZ does not charge money for SAR services.
- The Police very rarely prosecute for wasting Police time.
- MNZ has some powers in maritime SAR situations but less/none for land/aviation SAR situations.
- CAA can fine for failure to register beacon.
- There are a number of sector anecdotes about people seeking rescue who may not really need it.
- We are frequently questioned by the media about the cost of specific SAR operations and if we will pass along those costs.

The issues SAR face regarding costs are:

- IMO and ICAO require signatories (us) to provide SAR services in our SRR (sea and air) at our cost.
- What happens on and in NZ is up to us.
- Inbound tourist SAR events receive the most attention.
- Inbound tourists inject millions of dollars into our economy and are taxed via GST.

International issues regarding SAR costs are:

- Australia – don't charge money for SAR but Police appear more willing / able to prosecute.
- Canada/UK – don't charge money for SAR.
- UK – NZSAR understands they do not charge for SAR.
- USA – NZSAR understands most states do not charge for SAR.
- Europe – many countries DO charge for SAR services, insurance is also available.

Policy issues regarding this to be aware of are:

- Should have common policy irrespective of SAR category.
- We do what we do to save lives, not to make money.
- Law/regulation changes are very hard to achieve.
- Most SAR costs are infrastructural, not operational.
- Tourists are typically involved in only approximately 10% of incidents.
- Who could adjudicate disputes (at what cost?).
- Who would get any money recovered?
- Issuing invoices for SAR services to a selected few may diffuse criticism of the sector BUT charging people money may cause people to not request or hide from searchers.

The overall desire for this policy:

- To have clear and agreed policy.

- Agreed communications plan and communication lines for sector to explain policy.
- Appropriate balance between prevention, rescue and any penalty/costs recovery system.

There was a series of discussions around SAR costs. NZSAR to include that people can be charged for unregistered beacons in NZ. This issue will be form the strategic discussion of the NZSAR Council meeting on 4 August. Any feedback regarding cost recovery for SAR to be with the NZSAR secretariat within 1 week.

10. General Business

- a. Privacy Issues. Discussion around whether it is appropriate to receive information from clients/victims, it was agreed that it is, if the information remains confidential to the organisation and is used only in the case for which the information was obtained.
- b. Community Engagement. MCDEM report on Community Engagement is available
- c. Awards. NZSAR Awards for 2010 – Please get your nominations in
- d. Annual Stock take – information for this stock take is required by the NZSAR secretariat ASAP.
- e. Resource Database – went live 1 July.
- f. Secretariat Visits – NZSAR Secretariat would like to get out and about more this coming year.
- g. Performance Measurement Framework – NZSAR Secretariat distributed a diagram for the group to refer to. Feedback on this should be directed back to the Secretariat.
- h. Beacon Registration Update – beacon registration numbers are increasing. RCCNZ reported that 12 new registrations were made at a recent boat show and they had a lot of people enquiring about registering their beacons as well.

11. Next Meeting

The next Consultative Committee meeting will be held on 10 November 2010, at the Ministry of Transport.

Meeting concluded: 3.55pm

Carl van der Meulen
NZSAR Secretariat

Actions		Responsibility
4. Service Level Agreement Reports	Police to work with SLA partners to monitor submitted operational reports, and to provide P130 event numbers as required.	Police
5. Sector Update	Coastguard to distribute information on presenters attending the Coastguard conference being held in September	Coastguard
5. Sector Update	NZSAR to distribute the draft relationship agreement between the government and community sector	Secretariat
6. SAR Workshops	Feedback on the proposed workshops to be with the Secretariat by 28 July	Consultative Committee members
8. Volunteer Study	Feedback on the Volunteer Study to be with the Secretariat by Wednesday 28 July	Consultative Committee members
9. Cost Recovery for SAR	Feedback on this strategic item to be with the Secretariat by Monday 26 July	Consultative Committee members