

1. Burial Prevention
2. Self or Party Rescue
3. Organised Rescue
4. Life Sustaining
5. Communication

Burial Prevention Systems



Airbag System(s)

- ABS state a 98% survival rate.
- Down side they not readily available in NZ and are expensive.

How does it affect us as rescuers?

- Victim hopefully on or near the surface-shallow burial?
- Could take a quite a different flow line than someone not wearing it. Could be further than you think?
- Possibly more clues on surface? Consider visual search....
- Depending on brand victim could be face down?

Self or Party Rescue

Transceivers

- Only real practical alternative-small, light, on site immediately, protect both parties, affordable etc
- Has been big advancements over the last 3-5 years. Improvements?
- Can be used in both self and organised rescue.
- Generation “Y” learn to use new transceivers easily.
- The Million \$\$\$\$\$ Question.....Which is the best one???
- Speed/Quality of use largely depends on how familiar person is with transceiver.

Practice, practice, practice.....then practice some more.

How does it affect us as rescuers?

Old Transceivers:

- Older analogue models = 1 antenna and relied on sound/visual cues for direction.
- Needed lots of training to become proficient especially in multiple burials

New Transceivers:

- New digital models = 2/3 antennas and give number cues.....number of victims, different sounds, a graphic picture and/or distance depending on model.
- New transceivers are much easier to learn especially for possible the 'one time' users eg heli-skiers.
- Good possibility that a guest could find 1-2 burial victim(s). They could be your only or initial response!

RECCO

➤ *Reflectors:*

- Reflectors are integrated into clothing, helmets, boots by manufacturers.
- Requires no training
- No batteries
- No need to turn on
- Unlimited life span
- Orientation affects 'reflection'

➤ *Detector:*

- Uses 'harmonic' radar
- Does not follow 'flux' lines-direct to reflector
- Latest models can be used on transceivers and reflectors
- Can be used from a helicopter
- Will work off other electronic devices.

How does it affect us as rescuers?

- Could be an option for the ski field 'boundary rider' with no transceiver.
- Limited availability in NZ.
- Simple to install into a helicopter.
- Pilot has no control over direction of receiver. Needs coordinated approach.
- User needs to be trained to get best results.
- Can be used as an option for recovery.

Life Sustaining.

Avalung

- Prevents death by asphyxiation not suffocation.
- Without Avalung approximate survival time is 15min.
- With Avalung approximate survival time is 58min.
- Approximate rescue time is 20mins

How does it affect us as rescuers?

- Lengthening our possible survival times
- If we dig a victim out we may have to triage

Communication

Mobile phones

- Victim(s) could call immediately from site.
Response required straight away.
- They're a resource on site so task them straight away even if they don't have a transceiver-visual searches etc.
- Cell phones may distract rescuers.
- Don't hound them. Get what you need and let them do what you want.
- Could apply the same principles to radios?

