

LandSAR Health & Safety Report – February 2019

The health and safety performance information required through SLA/MoU agreements, as well as from those organisations specifically requested to provide data.

- As far as we are aware, we have complied with all legal requirements and standards that apply to the provision of our land search & rescue services during co-ordinated SAR activities.
- A summary of training data shows that 219 members have attended 2-day LandSAR Outdoor Risk Management Courses since 2015. The ORM course includes general risk management theory and practical exercises as well as specific segments on applying the LandSAR SMS.
- Fatigue and Critical Incident Stress management remain as top priorities for further work. The more we talk about these issues internally, the more the extent of our vulnerability is highlighted (ie. members feel more comfortable revealing their own experiences, once they see/hear others doing the same).
- In the area of fatigue management, we intend to build additional controls into operational practices and support these with corresponding standards and training content. Examples include specifying minimum rest periods between shifts, members warranting that they have not exceeded specified work/awake periods before deployment, management teams routinely providing alternatives to self-driving after night operations and tempering the type of taskings issued for the 0200-0600 period (balancing SAR personnel welfare with the urgency of the response).
- Incident reporting rates seem to be improving across the country. The geographical spread of Groups reporting is becoming more consistent. The majority of incidents continue to be in the slips/trips category – reflecting the operating environment.
- LandSAR has received additional equipment funding, much of which has been applied to live tracking equipment and PLBs for teams.
- We have noted the preliminary findings from the Alpine Helicopters MD500 crash near Wanaka Airport in October (tail rotor strike by an article that came from the aircraft cabin). We await industry and DOC reaction, with respect to any changes restricting embarked personnel from loading items and latching doors.

Results of health and safety visits or audits undertaken since the previous meeting

48 LandSAR Groups have completed Group Safety Self-Audits since October.

Corrective actions have been identified, and will be followed-up, in all cases, where Groups did not report either an excellent or acceptable levels of safety against the audit criteria

Adding safety discussions as a standing agenda item for local Group meetings is a common improvement action that the self-audits have prompted.

Health and Safety incident reports for LandSAR

There have been 10 health & safety incidents, involving LandSAR personnel, reported since the last meeting:

Date of Incident and Date Reported	Nature of Incident	Location	Injuries	Comments	Action Taken	Organisational Learnings
25 January 2019 25 January 2019	Stumbled and fractured finger during local evening training	Palmerston North	Broken ring finger	Member was standing on low trailer listening to helicopter safety briefing at hangar. Forgot he was on the trailer when stepping backwards at end of briefing. Fell to floor and put hand out, twisting finger in process.	Taken to hospital. Compound fracture diagnosed and straightened at A&E.	The parties involved point out that the height of the trailer was very low (30cm) and that the main failure was individual awareness. The injured member is 75 years old.
21 November 2018 23 November 2018	Fractured wrist during local evening training	Palmerston North	Broken wrist	Searching around shrub in urban park. Shrub had a supporting wire that the member did not see. Tripped on wire and broke wrist as a result of fall.	Taken to A&E and put in cast. Fracture may require pins.	Take five briefing covered situational awareness but the wire/trip hazard was not known at the time. Accident occurred during daylight.
18 November 2018 20 November 2018	Cut to knee during navigation exercise	Eketahuna	Serious cut to knee	As part of the navigation exercise member was negotiating a spur to access a stream bed. As she was coming into the stream-bed she lost her footing and fell on her right knee.	First Aid, activate PLB, helicopter evacuation to A&E.	Injured person was a new member. Possibly inexperienced in this type of terrain, possibly fatigued.
10 November 2018 14 November 2018	Sprained thumb during SAREX	Uruti Taranaki	Sprained thumb	Slipped on slippery slope, grabbed tree to stop, twisted thumb in process.	First Aid.	A result of steep terrain and slippery conditions.
10 November 2018 10 November 2018	Hit in face by stick during SAREX	Uruti, Taranaki	Facial laceration	Slipped down a papa bank and got stick in face, just below eye.	First Aid.	Nil
10 November 2018 12 November 2018	Broken ribs from fall in windthrown vegetation during night training	Auckland	Fractured ribs (x 3)	Evening tracking exercise (right on nightfall). Member stumbled in foot hole and fell forward onto fallen	First aid. Walked out (100 metres) to vehicle and driven to A&E.	Member was unfit, fatigued, carrying too much weight in pack and didn't have torch on full power. All resulted in

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				branch impacting ribs.		inattention, leading to stumble.
28 October 2018 3 November 2018	Torn muscle whilst running during SAR competition	Rangiora	Torn hip abductor muscle	Harris Trophy rules required team leaders to run with 24 hour packs at event start. Member (65 yo) tore muscle during this sprint.	Continued with event. Pain didn't abate so visited GP 4 days later and was prescribed painkillers and rest.	Not wise to run with heavy packs. Suggested to Canterbury Region that they change Harris Trophy rules to remove this requirement.
11 December 2018 10 October 2018	Driver dozed at wheel of vehicle after a SAROP	Karamea	Nil	Member had been deployed for night operation straight from a late shift at work. Stood down at 0600 and had 1 hour + drive home with others in vehicle.	The Group (Westport) sat on this report for 10 months whilst they tried to get local corrective actions agreed. Details have since been shared with Police nationally. Fatigue Safety Advisory went to all members in May.	We need to make self-driving after night operations an activity that requires specific OC/IMT approval. Other welfare (meals and accommodation) needs to be offered before members travel after missing sleep.
22 July 2018 22 July 2018	Flicking branch broke tooth during SAROP	Wanaka	Broken tooth	Search dense bush. Stick caught on team member, flicking up into his own face and breaking his tooth.	No immediate action required. Visited dentist on Monday and had temporary crown fitted.	Safety glasses and helmet were being worn. No other corrective actions possible.
22 July 2018 22 July 2018	Slipped and broke wrist during SAROP	Wanaka	Fractured wrist	Searching Stephenson's Island (Lake Wanaka), slipped and fell on outstretched arm, breaking wrist.	First Aid provided by team member. Subsequently taken to GP and follow-up treatment on Monday morning.	Questionable choice of footwear – outdoor shoes being worn, rather than boots.



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30 January 2019