



NATIONAL SKI PATROL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING VIA CONFERENCE CALL



Maine Region – MCI Report

November 17, 2010

I would like to thank the National Board Directors for your interest in our report of the MCI Event at Sugarloaf Mountain (E325) in Carrabassett Valley, ME. I have asked Earl Connor, Sugarloaf Ski Patrol (223104) member and the Managing Director of the MCI Event to join us on the conference call to answer any specific questions you may have about all or any part of the MCI drill.

Last March Earl was asked by several government agencies to set up a large scale disaster drill on ski area resort property. When Earl presented this opportunity to the region, ski resort management, ski patrol, operations, state and Federal agencies, etc., they immediately signed up to support this effort so they could experience this first hand and incorporate their findings into their own MCI plans. Please find one of several press releases that Earl sent around the state of Maine to raise awareness and to garner personnel in support of this tremendous exercise.

In what will be one of the largest exercises of its kind ever undertaken in a rural area, Sugarloaf will partner with local, county, and state agencies to test their readiness in the event of a full-scale emergency on Saturday, November 7.

The drill will simulate the derailment of a fully loaded quad chairlift, and will test the preparedness of all agencies involved, including the Sugarloaf Ski Patrol, Carrabassett Valley Police Department, Carrabassett Valley Fire Department, Kingfield Fire Department, Eustis Fire Department, Northstar Emergency Medical Services, Farmington Fire and Rescue, and the Franklin Memorial Hospital, among others.

The disaster scenario will require a complete evacuation of the full lift line, and immediate emergency medical response to any victims.

The drill will be monitored by the Maine Emergency Management Association (MEMA) and the Franklin County Emergency Management Association (FCEMA), and the emergency response agencies will be tested according to the standards set forth in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

In all, the drill will involve more than 10 agencies and as many as 300 participants including 9 ski patrols and their members from Maine, NH and MA.

“The goal of the drill is to test the community’s ability to respond to a mass casualty incident in a rural area,” said Earl Connor, a member of the Sugarloaf Ski Patrol who is coordinating the drill. “An event like the one we’re simulating will quickly overwhelm all of our readily available resources, from first responders to hospital staff, and we’re testing our ability to respond to that. What we learn from this drill will be applicable to any number of scenarios in similarly rural areas.”

The drill will test every aspect of the emergency response, from first response to press and public communications to the ability of the hospital system to manage the influx of patients. Each of the participating agencies will be graded on their performance, and their ability to interact effectively with one another.

While the actual MCI took only 4 (+/-) hours to fully set up and then to finally secure the scene and both lifts, the many months, days and hours of work coordinating the events leading up to this event are being documented. So will the next several weeks and months of meetings reviewing all of the data to finally be presented as “After Action Reports” to the Federal Government for financial and resource considerations in support of future development of the program.

MCI Drill - Maine Region
November 17, 2010
Page 2.

I would like to recognize Earl Connor for his dedication of service on behalf of the National Ski Patrol and for his untiring efforts in positioning the NSP and the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Patrol as community leaders for safety and program development. This MCI event collectively showcased the very best the Maine Region and the NSP has to offer.

The Maine Region continues to improve delivery performance for all NSP programs all over this great state. Whether it is enhanced skill development through Student, Senior and Certified programs, or reaching to all corners of the ("**you can't get there from here**") state with our distant learning programs, I can not be more proud of what our members are accomplishing. To see this major MCI event come together as flawlessly as it did through Earl's guidance and by the many NSP members who performed and supported it makes you proud to be an NSP member.

I look forward to joining your meeting and again appreciate the opportunity to share our success with the rest of the NSP world.

Respectfully submitted,
John M Kane, III
Maine Region Director
617-224-2824
Cert585@comcast.net