

7.3.1 INJURY - RAINBOW FALLS



INCIDENT OVERVIEW

Rainbow Falls is a very accessible hazard that sees surprisingly few SAR incidents. The numerous pitches that are formed as Slocicum Creek drains the west side of the ridge, fall in an often-vertical format and are extremely dangerous. This is further complicated by the poor condition of the rock and very unstable vegetation.

As the Harrison East logging road crosses Slocicum Creek, many travellers are enticed to stop and admire the view. Seeing pathways leading into the falls (upstream on river-right) only makes the situation worse, with evidence of significant traffic attempting to get higher up the bank. As is often the case with complex steep drainages, the subject's companions are not entirely sure of where their friend is located. In the worse case scenario, people attempting rescue could themselves become additional victims.

Access by SAR personnel can only be determined when the subject is located. An initial helicopter survey will often give the best assessment of the site without putting SAR resources in jeopardy. PEP's helicopter policy permits a team-initiated response under the proviso that the subject has entered swift water, and a land-based response cannot be made within 15 minutes.

7.3.1.1

#	FROM	TO	CUMULATIVE DISTANCE	CUMULATIVE TIME
1	OFFICE	RIVTOW	9.5	0:10:00
2	RIVTOW	GREEN POINT	14.0	0:15:00
3	GREEN POINT	SASQUATCH PARK	15.2	0:16:30
4	SASQUATCH PARK	2 Km MARKER	17.7	0:21:00
5	2 Km MARKER	SLOLICUM TURN-OFF	20.0	0:26:50
6	SLOLICUM TURN-OFF	RAINBOW FALLS	21.7	0:30:00

7.3.1.2

#	EQUIPMENT	REQUIRED	OPTIONAL
1	CREW CAB	1	
2	ROPE RESCUE RIGGING	1	
3	LITTER	1	
4	HELMETS/HEADLAMPS	12	
5	HARNESSES	6	
6	FLOODLIGHTS (NIGHT)	1	
7	GENERATOR (NIGHT)	1	
8	TRAUMA KIT	1	
9	OXYGEN	1	
10	PORTABLE RADIOS/HARNESSES	10	
11	FLASHLIGHTS (NIGHT)	10	
12	BODY RECOVERY KIT		1
13	SKED		1
14	MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND VEHICLE	1	
15	LOGIC 17		1
16	SPIRIT OF HARRISON		1

7.3.1.3

#	PERSONNEL (QUALIFICATIONS)	REQUIRED	OPTIONAL
1	GROUND SEARCH & RESCUE	15	7
2	ROPE RESCUE TEAM MEMBER	10	5
3	ROPE RESCUE TEAM LEADER	1	1
4	SEARCH MANAGER	1	1
5	OFA 3	1	1
6	RADIO OPERATOR (MIC)	1	
7	OPERATIONS CO-ORDINATOR (MIC)	1	
8	BOAT OPERATOR		2
	TOTAL	15	7
MINIMUM 15		OPTIMUM 22	

7.3.1.4 STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

- A. Duty officer responds to page.
- B. Back-up duty officer confirms page.
- C. Duty officer confers with RCMP (796-1622) or EHS (1-800-665-4511 **ask for the Agassiz dispatcher**) to confirm location and general instructions.
- D. Duty officer requests general page be issued re task type and resources required.
- E. Call PEP ECC (1-800-663-3456) to obtain task #.
- F. As there is always a slim chance that the subject has not gone directly into the falls, **IF SUFFICIENT DAYLIGHT IS AVAILABLE** (at least 2 hours) request helicopter to transport equipment and personnel to scene. *(If sufficient daylight is NOT available, go to 'I')* * **NOTE** - current PEP helicopter policy (#1, June 1994) states that the SAR manager can authorize the use of a helicopter when **'a victim has entered a fast moving river or large body of water, and a surface response cannot otherwise be made within 15 minutes'** The SAR manager must inform PEP ECC within 2 hours of the commencement of the task. Helicopter usage is limited to 2 hours without approval from the regional manager or duty manager.
- G. Call Arnie Van Bienen at Highland helicopters (796-9610) **OR** Fred Fandrich at Valley Helicopters (869-2131 **daytime**) **OR** Frontier Helicopters (855-1190 **24 hours**). Inform contractor to rendezvous at Highland Helicopters' base in Agassiz - ask pilot to go to PEP channel (149.495 Mhz) when in range to inform ETA at Highland.
- H. Send 4 members with lightweight rigging packs, helmets and harnesses to Highland.
- I. Members meet at office and sign log.
- J. Dispatch crew-cab with 6 qualified members **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, call RCMP for authority to travel ' CODE 3'
- K. Contact RCMP and obtain extensive information (directly from informants if possible) regarding subject description, departure point, destination, experience, knowledge of area, safety equipment etc.
- L. Assigned members leave office as soon as transport becomes available.
- M. Ensure that each vehicle has radio communications.
- N. If minimum # of members cannot be met within 15 minutes, call fire dispatch to page CSAR duty officer and request to call KHSAR on either 796-2864 or 795-0217 (cellular) or 819-2817 (SAR Mgr cellular).
- O. 2 members picks up MIC and take it to the scene.
- P. At the scene, 1 person remains at the crew-cab to ensure personnel en route can communicate on F1, while using a portable on F4 to maintain contact with members in the field.

- Q. Radio operator and at least 1 other member operate out of MIC to maintain radio communications. When MIC arrives, the crew-cab radio operator can be relieved. Park MIC at the north end of the bridge.
- R. Anticipate travel time to Rainbow Falls at 30 minutes.
- S. Access to falls is difficult. Establish location of subject and decide on approach.
- T. If subject is located below road, descend from the road by rope from a point 200 metres north of the bridge, using 300' lines. Creek shoreline has limited accessibility on North side of creek. Use crew-cab as anchor with pre-rig.
- U. If subject is located above road, at bottom of first pitch, approach directly from road, keeping to the north side (river right) of the creek.
- V. If subject is located above first pitch, ascend north bank of creek using logging road on right, 50 metres past bridge. Continue up road 300 metres to large tallus slope on right. Ascend hillside at right side of tallus, along treeline. Alternatively, there is a disused and very overgrown logging road that leaves the main line at a point approximately 1Km south of the falls. This road can also be intersected by proceeding up the slope at the first safe point south of the falls. The road comes out above the first pitch.
- X. Use of the helicopter should establish a more accurate location. If possible, use the helicopter to ferry equipment and personnel closer to the scene.
- Y. Determine (using Pelican flashlights at night) exact location of subject.
- Z. Advise RCMP and EHS when subject is located.
- AA. When located, send member (OFA 3) down rope, to asses and secure the subject.
- BB. Using established rope rescue procedures, lower the litter, package the subject and evacuate.
- CC. If subject cannot be located, but evidence exists that they have fallen, send LOGIC 17 or ' Spirit of Harrison' to check lake (Cascade Bay).
- DD. A team may be sent down the falls from the bridge, to be picked up by boat at Cascade Bay.
- EE. Complete initial clean-up
- FF. Return to office.
- GG. Call PEP duty officer re completion of task. * **REPORT ANY INJURIES, UNUSUAL EVENTS OR EXCESSIVE DAMAGE AT THIS TIME.**

7.3.1.5 SAFETY

- A. As this site is particularly dangerous, a qualified and responsible member should be designated as **SAFETY OFFICER**.
- B. The **SAFETY OFFICER** shall have ultimate authority to halt a procedure if he/she has any concerns.
- C. All members involved with ropework shall wear helmets and gloves.
- D. Any members working near or over an edge **MUST WEAR A HARNESS AND MUST BE SECURELY ATTACHED VIA SAFETY LINE.**
- E. Any members rendering medical aid shall wear protective gloves.
- F. The rope rescue team leader is responsible for the operation of the rope rescue team.
- G. All commands during the rope rescue must originate or be delegated by the rope rescue team leader.
- H. Team members shall operate on a ' buddy system' , ensuring that all personnel are accounted for on a continuous basis.

7.3.1.6 COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Primary communications en route will be on F1 (149.495 MHz), unless significant interference is evident from a neighbouring team' s activities, in which case F4 will be used.
- B. Until MIC arrives at the scene, 1 member shall remain at the crew-cab with the mobile on F1 and a portable on F4
- C. When at the scene, MIC will act as the base station, communicating with all units en route on F1.
- D. At the scene, portables will communicate with MIC on F4. MIC will communicate with the office on F1 or F2.

7.3.1.7 DEBRIEFING

- A. Where appropriate, the search manager(s) and/or RCMP may require an official debriefing to be held. The date for the debriefing shall be as soon after the task as possible and shall include all personnel involved in the management of the task.
- B. The format for the debriefing shall follow a factual examination of the events.
- C. Any recommendations shall be in the form of constructive criticism, with the emphasis on what could be done to improve the outcome in the event of a similar incident reoccurring.
- D. Minutes shall be taken and after approval by the OIC and the senior search manager, shall be distributed to all attendees.

7.3.1.8 CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS

- A. Critical Incident Stress defusing/debriefing may be required in circumstances where members experience an adverse reaction to certain elements of the incident.
- B. All team members **MUST** be aware of the symptoms requiring CISD, and must make the search manager aware if they suspect that a fellow team member is experiencing problems.
- C. The search manager or defuser may refer the member to a qualified debriefer, using the resource defined in the section on Critical Incident Stress. If several team members are experiencing problems with the incident, a group debriefing may be required. The recommendation is for this to take place between 24 to 72 hours following the incident.