

**DESIGNING A OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM
FOR VOLUNTEERS WHILE
MAINTAINING RESPONSE**

**SARscene 2010
Montreal**

Presentation

- ▣ The B.C. experience
- ▣ Developing guidelines for specialized rescue
- ▣ Tools to assist implementation of OHS program
- ▣ The Nova Scotia project
- ▣ Questions

The B.C. Experience

Major Considerations

- ▣ utilizing a process which respects perception of competing interests
- ▣ meeting regulations designed for industry
- ▣ assigning responsibility appropriately
- ▣ establishing a balanced standard of care
- ▣ implementing a OHS program in the real world

The B.C. Experience

- ▣ Health and Safety of Responders is the first priority
(Self, Team, Subject)
- ▣ Program for all Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers
 - Emergency Social Services (ESS)
 - Road Rescue
 - Emergency Communications (Amateur Radio)
 - Air Search (PEP Air/CASARA)
 - Search and Rescue (SAR)

The B.C. Experience

- ▣ Project launched spring 2007
 - Draft OHS Statement, roles and responsibilities, program components, and elements presented
- ▣ Consultant hired ✘
- ▣ Consultant hired ✓
- ▣ Project management group organized
- ▣ Work groups for each discipline established
 - Included lead staff, volunteers, and consultant
 - Provide d input into discipline specific safety program

The B.C. Experience

- ▣ Draft documents completed by early 2009
- ▣ Documents distributed and posted July 2, 2009
 - Public Safety Program
 - Volunteer Safety Policy
 - Discipline Specific Program Guides
 - Introduction letter and PowerPoint Presentation
- ▣ Feedback to drafts by March 31, 2010
- ▣ Program implementation
- ▣ Tools to support program