Mountain safety in snow surveys

G. Burelli¹, M. Curtaz¹, A. De Checchi¹, P. Dellavedova¹, E. Motta³, J. P. Fosson¹
¹ Fondazione Montagna Sicura, Villa Cameron, Località Villard de la Palud 1, 11013 Courmayeur (AO), Italy
³ Safety engineer at Fondazione Montagna sicura

The first aim of Fondazione Montagna sicura (www.fondazionemontagnasicura.org) is the mountain safety improvement. Fondazione employs a pool of experts working on the western Italian Alps to collect data on snow cover and on glaciers in order to issue the avalanche Bulletin of the Valle d’Aosta Region, to update the glaciers and avalanche cadasters, but also to disseminate a safe approach to mountain activities.

In Italy health and safety at work are regulated by the Legislative Decree n.81 of April 9th 2008, which introduced several rules. The employer must provide particular rules to improve health and safety at work. First of all he has to assess risks for health and safety at work (providing the Risk Assessment Document), to eliminate them and, if it’s not possible, to reduce them; he also has to provide the health monitoring of his employees etc…. Specific training for hazards at work had been introduced by the Lgs 81/08. Medical examinations for all the employees and mountain medicine examinations for the team that works at high altitude and also the personal protective equipment (PPE) for the field team are provided.

CONCLUSIONS
Much has been done in the last years to assess and improve safety at work. The scientific progress, the improvement of the PPE, the continuous training and medical examinations will help Fondazione to improve safety and health in all its activities. The next winter season will add new elements and data to improve furtherly the procedures during snow surveys, and will help to find other sites properly, in term of safety, for the observation of snowpack and the study of slopes. The Risk Assessment Document will continuously be updated to assess a better management of all Fondazione’s activities.

Last year Fondazione became the referent institution for the mountain safety training courses of the Valle d’Aosta Region.

The alpine guide shows some technical aspect of ski mountaineering during a training course.

Fondazione provides training courses on:
- safety and general risks at work,
- fire-prevention,
- first-aid,
- avalanche safety,
- ARTVA,
- glacier hiking,
- off-road driving.

Medical examinations for all the employees and mountain medicine examinations for the team that works at high altitude and also the personal protective equipment (PPE) for the field team are provided.

CONCLUSIONS
Much has been done in the last years to assess and improve safety at work. The scientific progress, the improvement of the PPE, the continuous training and medical examinations will help Fondazione to improve safety and health in all its activities. The next winter season will add new elements and data to improve furtherly the procedures during snow surveys, and will help to find other sites properly, in term of safety, for the observation of snowpack and the study of slopes. The Risk Assessment Document will continuously be updated to assess a better management of all Fondazione’s activities.

The avalanche guide shows some technical aspect of ski mountaineering during a training course.

Fondazione provides training courses on:
- safety and general risks at work,
- fire-prevention,
- first-aid,
- avalanche safety,
- ARTVA,
- glacier hiking,
- off-road driving.

Medical examinations for all the employees and mountain medicine examinations for the team that works at high altitude and also the personal protective equipment (PPE) for the field team are provided.

CONCLUSIONS
Much has been done in the last years to assess and improve safety at work. The scientific progress, the improvement of the PPE, the continuous training and medical examinations will help Fondazione to improve safety and health in all its activities. The next winter season will add new elements and data to improve furtherly the procedures during snow surveys, and will help to find other sites properly, in term of safety, for the observation of snowpack and the study of slopes. The Risk Assessment Document will continuously be updated to assess a better management of all Fondazione’s activities.

The avalanche guide shows some technical aspect of ski mountaineering during a training course.