

SAMRO National Assessor Workshop

held in Bloemfontein, South Africa

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The South African Medical Rescue Organisation (SAMRO) National Assessor Workshop 2018 was held in Bloemfontein in the Free State Province, South Africa during June 2018 with the aim to support and assist the assessors to plan, conduct and review assessments for the rescue team in understanding their rescue skills performance in a rescue scenario.

The purpose of the assessor's workshop was to ensure that the teams are assessed by competent specialists working from established best practice assessment methods. Added to that is to recognise the current competency of the experienced assessors to assess the outcomes of their rescue skills in an assessors' training programme.

It was important for SAMRO that assessors understand the environments under which the assessment will be directed:

- The World Rescue Organisation (WRO) and SAMRO requirements for assessment national and international
- Platform about strength, reliability, objectivity and flexibility as an assessor
- Safety and the dangers related with assessment
- The assessment guidelines in the public safety

During the workshop, SAMRO also identified weaknesses and provided support to help develop the assessor qualifications to conduct the assessment as it is imperative for the assessors to be qualified in the following units in assessment and workplace training:

- Plan assessment
- Conduct assessment
- Review assessment
- Organise assessment
- Assess competence
- Participate in assessment validation



During the event, a strategy was developed that identifies the relevant sources of evidence to confirm competence during assessment.

The workshop was supported by three assessors from the World Rescue Organisation (WRO) who were carefully observed in order to acquire similar skills and competencies. This enabled incoming assessors to determine the basics and performance criteria choice of variables, gaining knowledge, expertise and competencies.

The national assessors were provided with the following documents prior to the workshop in order to support the assessment process on the upcoming event:

- Rescue skills learner workbook
- Assessors policies
- The role of the assessors documents
- Marking sheets

On the second day the practical scenarios, the assessors debriefed the team about their performance. This allowed the team and the assessors to interact and evaluate the scenario and how it was mitigated. The evaluation was based on the work performed during the scenario and not on what the assessor felt 'should' have been done.

During our three-day programme we covered the following:

- Contribute in a rescue process assessment
- Equipment during the assessment
- Upholding safety during the assessment
- Effects to look for during assessment (critical aspects of evidence)
- Marking sheets
- Assessment policies
- Dependable performance
- Precise resources needed for the assessment.

At the end of this workshop, we came to a point to review our assessment process as an assessor and ask ourselves the following questions:

- Did it work? Why or why not?
- How can I make what I did more efficient?
- Did we cover, discuss and clarify issues and problems with the learning and development of the assessment team.

In conclusion, these workshops allow participants, rescuers and assessors to try out and evaluate new tools, techniques, equipment and new vehicles in a controlled environment in a real-world setting.

Safety is of utmost importance and forms part of all the evaluation criteria. ▶

Rescue roundup

- ▶ Safety includes team and patient safety, as well as an awareness of the hazards within the scenario and posed by current vehicle technology.

We had a great workshop this year in central South Africa in Bloemfontein! Sincere thanks to the workshop speakers, programme

committee members, organising committee members and most of all, to the wonderful assessors for making this year's workshop a great success!

We are very encouraged by the level of attendance and engagement during the event.

We are very appreciative of the information and views we have gathered through your input and we will be producing a report on the outcome as a project deliverable.

Once again, thank you for making the workshop successful and we appreciate your continued support. ▲



