

SONDALO SONDRIO



MORBEGNO CHIAVENNA

Azienda Ospedaliera della Valtellina e della Valchiavenna  
Struttura di Ricovero e Cura di Sondrio  
**S.O.C. Anestesia Rianimazione - S.S.U.Em.118**

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## **RESCUE WITH THE HELICOPTER IN WINTER SPORTS IN THE ALPINE AREA: COMPARISON BETWEEN ITALIAN AND EUROPEAN REALITIES**

2° European Juridical Forum on Snow  
Auditorium Ski College G.W. Leibniz  
Bormio, 1 -3 December, 2006



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Codice Fiscale - Partita IVA. 00202030144



Sistema Qualità  
UNI EN ISO 9001:2000  
Certificato n.9122.AOEM



Registration Number  
IT - 26042

## INTRODUCTION

The mountain territories are characterized by:

- complex orografy
- difficult practicability
- scattering of the population

with consequent

- great difficulty to emergency medical assistance



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## RESCUE WITH THE HELICOPTER

**The helicopter has revolutionised rescue in mountain areas since it has allowed bringing “the hospital” (doctor and equipment) on the site of the accident for assisting patients in need of medical treatment**



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## RESCUE WITH THE HELICOPTER: THE EUROPEAN SITUATION

- the helicopter emergency medical services present in all the European countries
- coordinated by emergency control operating units with different calling numbers for each country since the only European emergency number “112” is not yet completely implemented.
- whoever supplies the service may be public institutions, private or non profit organizations.
- the cost of the service is at the charge of the social security in the various forms of national or private insurances



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# RESCUE WITH THE HELICOPTER: THE EUROPEAN SITUATION

The **JAR-OPS 3** regulation was issued by JAA (Joint Aviation Authorities – Europe) and it establishes the HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Service) characteristics:

- **Definition of the service**
- **Performances of the helicopters**
- **Requirements and experience of the personnel**
- **Meteorological conditions of navigability**
- **Approval of on-board medical equipment**
- **Navigation and communications systems**
- **Operational headquarters**
- **Training and control of flight personnel**
- **Training of medical and technical rescue personnel**



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## SWITZERLAND

- one of the first countries to activate the air rescue (1952) by combining the philosophy of bringing the medical treatments directly on the site of the accident
- REGA is the only existing organisation (a foundation associated to the Swiss Red Cross) in the air rescue framework
- the Central Control Operating Unit is located in Zurich (alarm number 1414)
- 10 bases are active with the integration of 3 managed by partner companies
- repatriation of Swiss citizens by air-flights with jets of own property
- the number of missions in 2005 is 8,459 of which 1,307 only for accidents due to winter sports



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## AUSTRIA

- the service started with Police helicopters
- in 1983 OAMTC activates a service of helicopter emergency medical service (Christophorus 1) and in 2001 becomes the only body of air rescue
- the rescue requests reach the 112 Headquarters which are then passed to the base according to the competent territory
- the bases are 17 which are integrated with other 6 helicopters to cover the requirements of the ski stations
- the number of missions in 2005 is 16,342 of which 79% are primary rescues
- the service is in compliance with the JAR-OPS 3 regulation



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## FRANCE

- the first rescue missions are carried out by the Gendarmerie and the Sécurité Civile (Civil Security)
- in 1965 are created the SMUR at hospitals and since the end of the eighties the SAMU with annexed helicopter emergency medical services
- the control operating units may be reached through the alarm number “15”
- for the helicopter emergency medical service most of the regions make use of private air transport companies (5 companies with 38 bases)
- three regions operate in the sector with public institutions (Gendarmerie 17 bases + 9 seasonal and Sécurité Civile 22 bases)
- within 2008 adaptation with the JAR-OPS 3 regulation



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## ITALY

- the activity of helicopter emergency medical service starts in the seventies with the ALE (Aviazione Leggera Esercito = Military Light Aviation) helicopters located close to the Alpine area
- the first Italian helicopter emergency medical service is activated by the Sondrio Provincial Administration in 1982 being supported by a company of airborne work
- the helicopter emergency medical service bases are 48 which make use of air transport companies; only two regions make use of public rescue institutions
- the regions Molise and Umbria do not have any helicopter emergency medical service
- the medical personnel is supplied by the National Health Service and the mountaineering personnel by CNSAS (Corpo Nazionale Soccorso Alpino e Speleologico = National Alpine and Speleological Rescue Body)
- the helicopter emergency medical services are in conformity with the JAR-OPS 3 Regulation



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**CENTRALI OPERATIVE 118  
E BASI DEI ELISOCCORSO =**

**= CONTROL OPERATING UNITS 118  
AND HELICOPTER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE  
BASES**

**!**

**: CENTALE OPERATIVA = CONTROL OPERATING UNIT**

**Helicopter symbol: BASE ELISOCCORSO = HELICOPTER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE BASE**

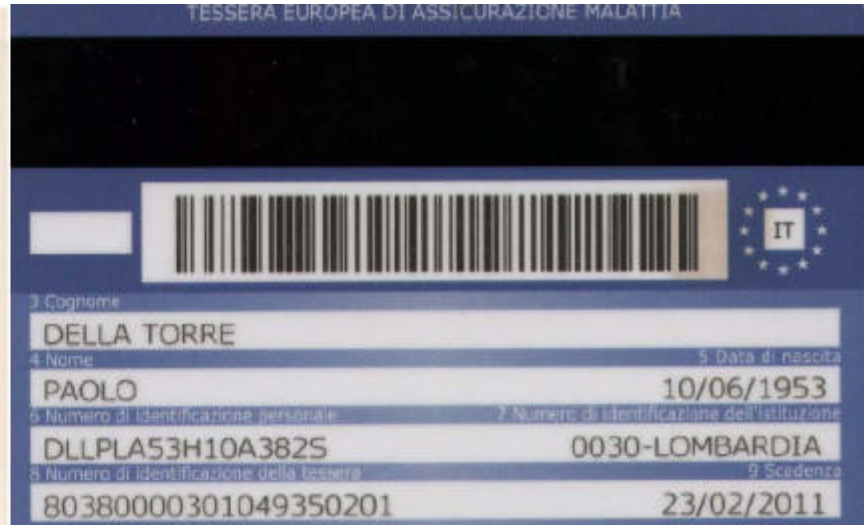
## ECONOMIC ASPECTS

- since 1 November, 2004 all European citizens have the TEAM card (Tessera Europea di Assistenza Malattia = European Card of Health Security)
- the TEAM card, within the territory of another member or conventional Country, gives right to:
  - necessary medical treatment even of non-emergency
  - services which are given on the basis of equal treatment with the citizens of the host Country
  - medical treatment given in a direct form according to the regulations that the Country of temporary residence applies to its own resident insured citizens (for example, should there be tickets these must be paid and cannot be refunded)
  - the community regulations do not provide the refund of the transport expenses of the patient to the Country of residence
  - it does not cover the cost of the services given by private non accredited structures (in virtue of the elected domicile)



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Lombardy Region

**REGIONAL CARD  
For SERVICES**

**NATIONAL  
HEALTH CARD  
FOR SERVICES**

**Fiscal code  
DLLPLA53H10A3825**

**Date of Expiry  
23/02/2011**

Surname	DELLA TORRE		
Name	Sex	DELLA TORRE	
PAOLO	M		
Place of Birth	Code of Panel patient	PAOLO	10/06/1953
ARDENNO	4048V775		
Province	Date of Birth	DLLPLA53HI0A3825	0030 – LOMBARDIA
SO	10/0671953		
		803800003010493550201	23/02/2011



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## AGREEMENTS AMONG NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

- The agreements among neighbouring countries allow collaboration on rescues and compensations in case of operational hindrances in a helicopter emergency medical service
- The collaborations currently in force generate from the commitment of the work Communities in the Alpine area: ARGE-ALP, ALPE ADRIA and COTRAO
- The agreements in force are:
  - The 1998 *“Agreement for the trans-border helicopter emergency medical service activities between the Grigioni Canton and the Bolzano Autonomous Province”*
  - The 2006 *“Agreement on the subject of daily organisation and management of the medical rescue in trans-border mountain area between the Autonomous Aosta Valley Region and the Vallese Canton”*



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## CONCLUSIONS

- The helicopter emergency medical services, born in the first fifties, are by now present in a widespread manner in all the European Countries
- They are irreplaceable in the rescue of the mountain population and for tourists in the winter and summer sports activities
- The operational standards of the helicopters and of the organisations are being standardised following to the compulsory European regulations (JAR-OPS 3)
- The agreements among neighbouring Countries, in relation to the collaboration in the trans-border rescue, have become determinant for the good result of the interventions
- The only European emergency number 112 will improve accessibility to the helicopter emergency medical services
- The work Communities of the alpine regions play an important role in the trans-border agreements being more sensitive to the requirements of the mountain population and of the tourist



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