



Link Line



an update from **WSN** on **YOUR** Mine Rescue program

Issue #33 Summer 2017

Gold hard hats and then some



GOLDCORP MUSSELWHITE MINE – Back row: Guide Matt VandenHeuvel (Compass Minerals Goderich Mine), #2 Andrew Legree, #4 Ryan LePage, #6 Robin Jilks, #3 Steve Godin, Vice-captain Holly Robinson. Front row: Technician Dave Hay (Goldcorp Red Lake Mines), Captain Chris Horde, Briefing Officer Brad Towle. Missing: #7 Kylan Pickett.

Musselwhite wins 3 awards; Vale's Weaver top technician

► Mine rescue volunteers from Goldcorp Musselwhite Mine undeterred by the cavernous drifts of the largest operating salt mine in the world, Compass Minerals' Goderich Mine, earned the champions' gold hard hats and more in the 68th Provincial Mine Rescue Competition.

The Musselwhite team, consisting of: Captain Chris Horde, #2 Andrew Legree, #3 Steve Godin, #4 Ryan LePage, Vice-captain Holly Robinson, #6 Robin Jilks, #7 Kylan Pickett and Briefing Officer Brad Towle, also earned the Team Firefighting Award and the John Guthrie (Special Equipment) Award.

The win was the first-ever for Musselwhite Mine, which made its first appearance in a provincial competition in 2000, and the first for a team from Red Lake District since 2001, when Placer Dome Ltd.'s Campbell Mine won.

This year's Red Lake District technician Dave Hay, from Goldcorp Red Lake Gold Mines, in his 15th Provincial Competition in 23 years was a member of that Placer Dome team.

Ron Weaver, technician for Vale Canada, East Mines in Sudbury won the award for top technician. K+S Windsor Salt, Ojibway Mine technician Rick Reid placed second, and Simone Hensher, of Glencore Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations, placed third.

2017 Provincial Competition Winners

Overall Winners

- 1st – Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine
- 2nd – Tahoe Canada, Timmins West & Bell Creek Mines

Technician Award

- 1st – Ron Weaver, Vale Canada, East Mines
- 2nd – Rick Reid, K+S Windsor Salt, Ojibway Mine
- 3rd – Simone Hensher, Glencore Sudbury INO

Firefighting Team Award

Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine

First Aid Team Award

North American Palladium, Lac des Iles Mine

John Guthrie (Special Equipment) Award

Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine

See 'CHALLENGE' Page 5

We need you!

If you have comments about the newsletter, or suggestions for future articles, please contact Ken Sitter at WSN, (705) 474-7233 ext. 234, or kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca



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2017 AWARDS



First Overall

Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine



Second Overall

Tahoe Canada, Timmins West & Bell Creek Mines



**Technician Award
1st – Ron Weaver**

Vale Canada, East Mines



**Technician Award
2nd – Rick Reid**

K+S Windsor Salt



**Technician Award
3rd – Simone Hensher**

Glencore, Sudbury INO



Firefighting Award

Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine



First Aid Award

North American Palladium, Lac des Iles Mine

Platinum Sponsors



John Guthrie (Special Equipment) Award
Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine

Provincial Competition Gallery



Vale Canada, West Mines



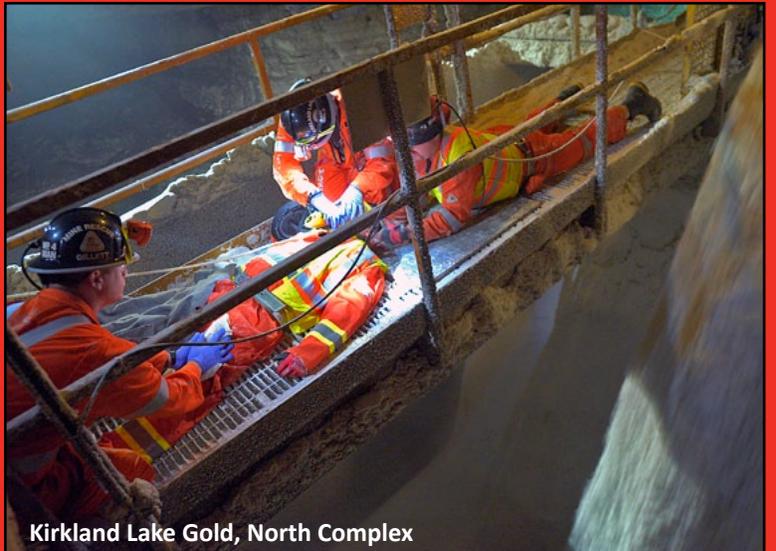
Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine



Tahoe Canada, Timmins West & Bell Creek Mine



North American Palladium, Lac des Iles Mine



Kirkland Lake Gold, North Complex

For the 2017 Provincial Competition Album, visit bit.ly/2vuWXsh or see our website www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue



Canadian Gypsum Co., Hagersville Mine

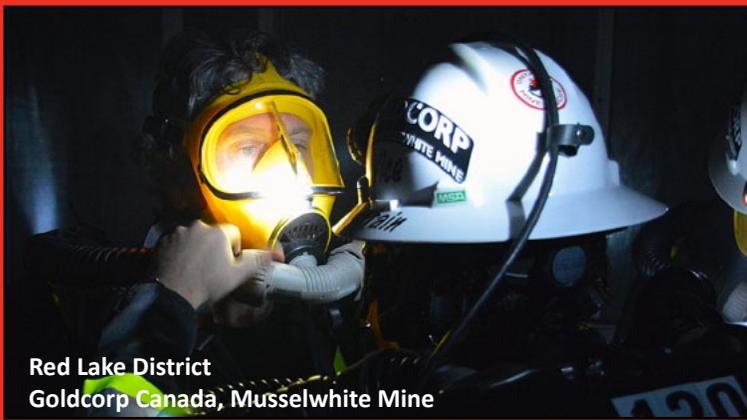


Glencore Sudbury INO

District Competition Gallery



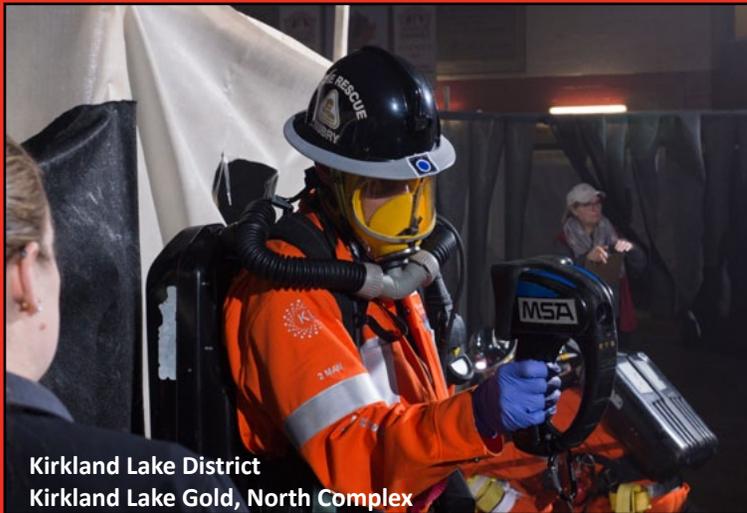
Timmins District
Tahoe Canada, Timmins West & Bell Creek Mines



Red Lake District
Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine



Onaping District
Glencore Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations



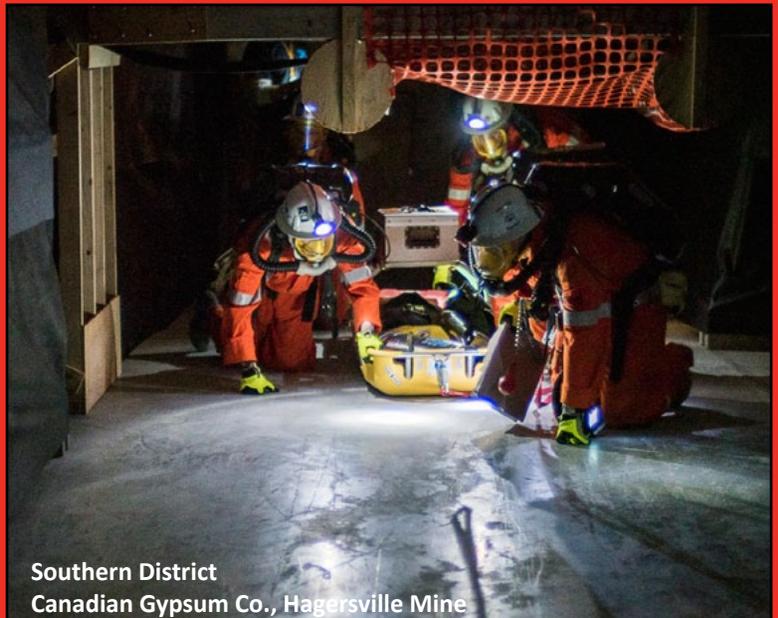
Kirkland Lake District
Kirkland Lake Gold, North Complex



Sudbury District
Vale Canada, West Mines

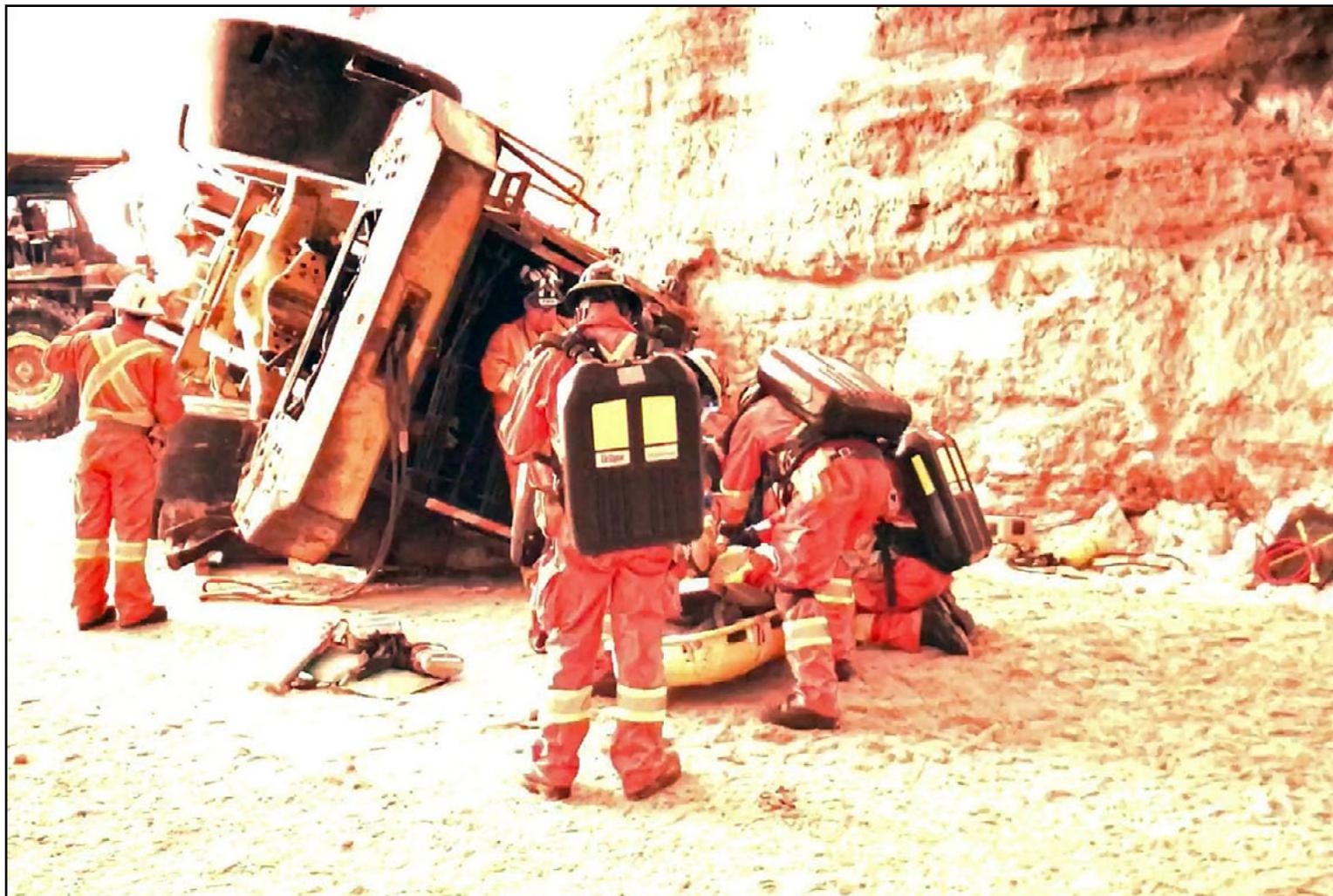


Thunder Bay & Algoma District
North American Palladium, Lac des Iles Mine



Southern District
Canadian Gypsum Co., Hagersville Mine

For the 2017 District Competition Album, visit bit.ly/2rIDnw4 or see our website www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue



EXPLOSIVE ENDING – This year’s Provincial Mine Rescue Competition ended with a bang and a blinding flash of light. Methane levels rose as teams rushed to free a casualty pinned under an overturned loader. As the casualty was released, the methane “exploded” spurring teams to load and go. For video reaction of teams to the explosion, visit bit.ly/2sSRfhQ or see our website www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue.

Challenge after challenge

Fall from heights, broken femur, fire, methane and more

Continued from Page 1

North American Palladium’s Lac des Iles mine rescue team earned the Team First Aid Award, and for the second consecutive year, Tahoe Canada West Timmins and Bell Creek Mine, was overall runnerup.

Last year’s winner and this year’s hosts, Compass Minerals Goderich Mine, did not make it out of the Southern District competition, but team members played a key role as guides to the competing teams.

They not only guided teams through the expansive mine, but also could assist in performing tasks, though not offer or respond to requests for advice.

A guide joined each team as soon as it arrived at the mine substation in response to a mutual aid call. While on surface awaiting their rotation into the underground mutual aid emergency, the team responded to a radio report from security about a worker who had fallen about 15 metres from a catwalk and become entrapped in a salt stockpile.

Using Ontario Mine Rescue’s new rope rescue system, teams performed a pickoff rescue to prevent the casualty from being inundated in salt, and raised him to the catwalk. With emergency medical services

(EMS) on the scene, teams were directed to rejoin their Briefing Officer and Technician at the mine rescue substation.

From there, teams were directed by the Control Group to collect a stocked stretcher at #2 Headframe and head underground to the advanced Fresh Air Base (FAB) to become the standby team.

When a team of gas checkers failed to meet the team at the underground shaft station, the team had to explore on foot to the last reported location of the gas checkers.

TRIPPED, FALLEN, INJURED

The teams found the gas checkers on a catwalk on the top of two-level 400-ton bin, where one had tripped, fallen and suffered an open fracture to a femur.

Teams had to traverse the ladder, stairs and catwalks of the bin to reach the gas checker and provide first aid. Once the casualty was packaged for EMS, the teams had to make the challenging return trip to the base of the bin with a loaded stretcher.

At this point, the #6 Man was directed to leave the team to use a rock splitter to break up and remove large salt boulders that blocked an adjacent travelway.

Teams were able to catch their breath on a 15-minute ride via personnel carrier to the advanced FAB, where the Briefing Officer and the Technician finally left the team to begin their competition tasks.

Advised of 1,600 ppm carbon monoxide levels in a nearby drift, the teams were instructed to get under oxygen, and explore for the source of the CO.

They discovered a 988 Loader had been sideswiped and overturned by a 62-tonne truck; the engine compartment of the truck on fire; and the loader operator pinned under the loader, and suffering a crushed pelvis and deep abdomen lacerations.

A compressed air foam system was required to extinguish the fire, and lifting bags were needed to release the casualty.

While working to extricate the casualty, teams received increasingly frantic reports that methane levels in nearby areas were rising. As the casualty was released, the team’s gas monitor indicated a methane level of 35 per cent of the lower explosive limit.

Seconds later, a “methane explosion” simulated to feel and sound like a nearby event, forced teams to wrap up and evacuate immediately to the advanced FAB, ending the scenario.

OMR rises to heights of rope rescue

Ontario Mine Rescue volunteers are on the apex of rope rescue technology.

“No one compares to what you guys are doing,” said Steve Minarchi, the president of T’NT Work & Rescue in Alberta. “There’s nothing better out there than what you are using.”

Minarchi, whose company also serves the police, fire and tactical rescue industries, described the new system “as a mirrored or two-tension system instead of the tradition main line and belay line. We can lower and convert to a raise at the snap of a finger.”

The system which replaces the GripTech SP2 Rope Rescue System, acquired by Ontario Mine Rescue in the 1990s, brings welcomed, significant improvements, said Mine Rescue Officer Duane Croswell.

“In the nearly 20 years that I have been involved with Ontario Mine Rescue,” he said, “our rope rescue equipment and procedures had never really evolved.”

After exploring newer options, Croswell said, “it became very apparent that our equipment needed to be upgraded, and our procedures modified to reflect standard industry practice.”

The simplicity of the new system, the quality of the equipment, the lighter weight, ease of training, and the ease of transportation – one rope bag and a gear bag for each tension system, are easy advantages for volunteers to see, Croswell said.

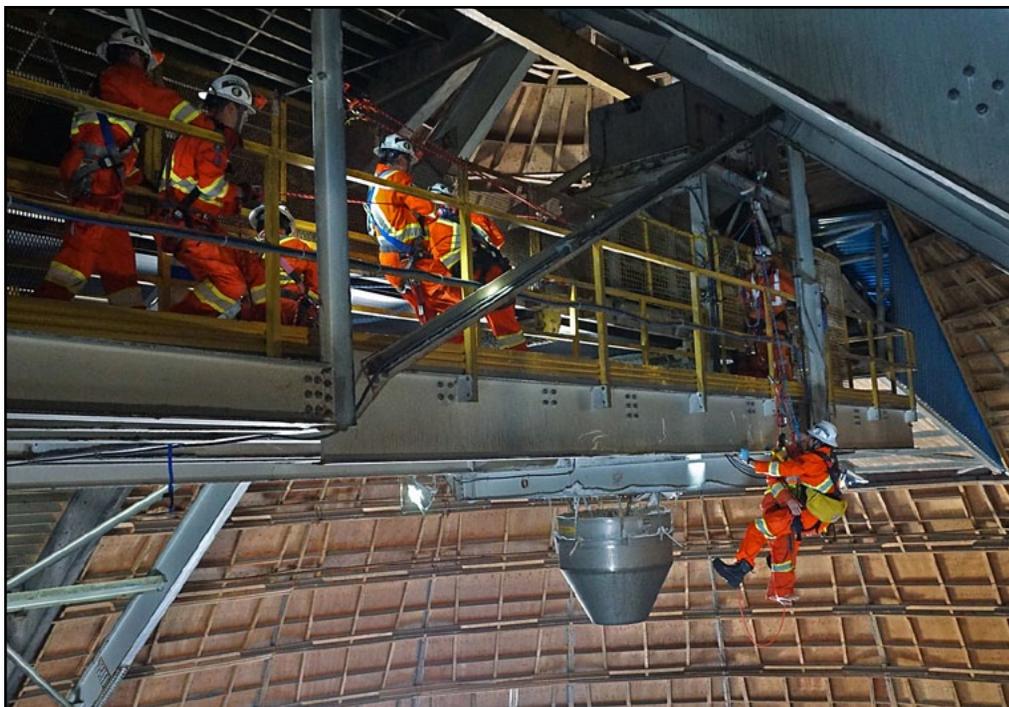
Minarchi met with Croswell and the Mine Rescue Officers in June 2016 to discuss their rope rescue needs and demonstrate a range of gear available.

“We tested a lot of stuff” at the fire tower at the Azilda fire training centre, he said, and later that summer, at the International Mines Rescue Competition (IMRC2016) a more select assortment of gear was available for competing teams to use and for Ontario Mine Rescue to assess.

The MPD, or multipurpose device, the key mechanism in the system which allows for quick switching from raising to lowering to raising, said Minarchi, was “first released approximately six years ago, and only became a standard about three years ago.”

Also important, he said, is the system’s adaptability.

“New devices do come out occasionally,



APPROACHING THE TOP – A rescuer from Musselwhite Mine is raised to the top by team members using Ontario Mine Rescue’s new rope rescue system during the 2017 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition.



A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING – Steve Minarchi of T’NT Work & Rescue takes pride in the organization of OMR’s new rope rescue system.

but this system will be adaptable to those devices. So OMR may tweak the sets with time rather than implement a wholesale change in systems.”

IMRC2016 “led to a few more tweaks – this works, this doesn’t, and to the creation of Version 2.2 rolled out this spring” to volunteers for training, Minarchi said.

“We took pride in how we packaged and organized it,” Minarchi said. “Everything is colour-coded – red for the main, blue for the belay – and labelled nice and neat, a place for everything” to make it easy for rescuers to train with and use.

And the training went well, said Croswell, who developed the introductory session last fall.

Volunteers received a one-day introduction, he said, spending the morning hands-on with the gear, getting used to new procedures, and the shared-tension system as opposed to the GripTech’s belay system. The afternoon was “a lot of practical work with the ropes.”

“It was a lot for the trainees to absorb in their first session getting the gear,” Croswell said, but “by the end of the first day, they are usually far more confident with” the

new system than they were after their first GripTech session.

“As with anything new, it just takes a little bit of confidence. It’s happening quickly, especially with people who already have experience with rope rescue,” he said.

Volunteers should have had at least one training session by June, while competition teams, who faced a rope challenge in the Provincial Mine Rescue Competition, received additional sessions, said Croswell, and that training will lead to a further review this September.

“We’ll review what when really well, what didn’t, what we can improve on. We’ll take all of that feedback from our volunteers and more formalize what our procedures are going to be.”

Mine Rescue appointment

Emergency Services Specialist Tim Ebbinghaus has been appointed Ontario Mine Rescue’s first Chief Emergency Services Officer.

As chief he will oversee specialty rescue training and consulting beyond the core legislated Mine Rescue program.

Ebbinghaus served as a mine rescue volunteer for 14 years with Canadian Salt Co. in Windsor before joining OMR in 2012.

He was the Mine Rescue Officer for Thunder Bay and Algoma District, and Sudbury District, prior to becoming Emergency Services Specialist earlier this year.



Tim Ebbinghaus



Who is That?

We know who they are, Southern District champions Sifto Canada's mine rescue team at the 1987 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition in Timmins, but we don't know who is who. If you can identify members of the team, please email kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca.



Say, isn't that . . .

Thanks to Lawrence Baxter, Trevor Mogg, Norm Begin, Steve Carbonneau, Lex Lovatt and others, for helping to identify Lovatt's old mine rescue team – Thunder Bay District champions Renabie Gold Mines Ltd., host team of the 1988 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition in Thunder Bay. Back row, from left: #4 Ralph Walsh, Cagetender Paul Prusky, #2 Pierre Plouffe, #3 Dave Fearn. Front row: Captain Lex Lovatt, Mine Rescue Co-ordinator Martin Wafforn, and Vice-captain Rick Steven.

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