

SAKHALIN PRE-HOSPITAL CARE, RUSSIA



Date started: 2006 **Date finished:** On-going

Partners: Sakhalin Road Safety Partnership, World Rescue Organisation

Cost/time/resources: 250,000USD, 2006 - 2009



Targeting professional skills of the police and rescue services help saving lives at crash scenes on Sakhalin Island. The Russian Federal Road Safety Programme has long recognized that many road crash deaths and injuries in Russia could be prevented through improved rescue efforts and pre-hospital care.

In July 2006, the Sakhalin Road Safety Partnership (SRSP) launched a technical assistance project to save lives and reduce injuries by increasing the skills of road safety professionals who respond to road crash emergencies. In 2008, as part of the project's second stage, training sessions were conducted by local trainers from Rescue and Fire Fighting services educated in 2007 under WRO's supervision.

Summary project sheet.

Objectives and scope

The Pre-hospital Care (PHC) Project unites several emergency services that are involved in post-crash rescue. The goal of this project is to increase the skill base of the professionals in various agencies and provide them with relevant and needed equipment to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their life-saving efforts. The project also seeks to reduce injuries to rescue workers involved in dangerous emergency work.

Activities

Components of the project include:

- training of all traffic police officers in first aid, as they are usually the first at the crash scene;
- training of medical specialists in ACLS/ ATLS
- a mock-crash scene exercise to evaluate rescue techniques and cooperation among professionals (undertaken by the WRO in cooperation with GRSP),
- focus group discussions,
- training and equipment provision.

First aid training commenced in July 2006 and was conducted according to standards by the Sakhalin unit of the Russian Centre for Disaster Medicine. First aid kits have been procured for all mobile units on Sakhalin Island.

Since 2006, the WRO has travelled to Sakhalin regularly to facilitate rescue exercises (mock crash scenes) and a series of focus group discussions with road safety professionals (police, rescue, medical, fire).

In the project's second phase, started in mid 2007, Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training for paramedics and equipment procurement (first aid kits and rescue equipment) were completed. As part of the project, local Sakhalin Rescue Services also took delivery of hydraulic equipment used to extricate crash victims from wrecked cars.

Conclusion and main lessons learnt

This project is different from other SRSP projects as it directly targets the professional skills of the rescue services and helps to built the sustainability by expanding the local skills and capability. It is important to measure the effectiveness of the implemented measures and it was done on Sakhalin by conducting the emergency exercise with Rescuers, Medical and Traffic Police.