

Specialized drills for AVCPs

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Introduction

As part of the FIRESPILL project, the Advanced course for AIB Operators belonging to civil protection organizations was organized. The training activities were planned in accordance with the provisions of DGR n. 383 of 21/06/2021. The firefighting qualification programs provide, according to current legislation, a final exercise on the ground to complete the training activities.

Exercise Objectives

The exercise aims at training the volunteers in the issues concerning the plans of attack to the various types of forest fire and the correct use of vehicles and equipment during active fight against the fire, in possession or available to voluntary associations, through free loan for use with the Abruzzo Region.

In addition, the exercise also aimed at achieving a series of "collateral objectives", correlated with the activities envisaged by it:

- Cooperation between the Civil Protection Volunteer and the staff of the National Fire Brigade.
- Implementation of regional operational directives on forest fires.

• Implementation of the concepts covered during the course regarding coordination between the various figures, operational viability and risks on the ground during AIB activities

• The use of Personal Protective Equipment.

The verification of the achievement of the objectives was entrusted to the Observers, that is the subjects who, making use of the total freedom of movement in the scenario, had the task of critically analyzing the carrying out of the planned activities while trying to grasp the strengths to be enhance and weaker ones to improve. Each observer has compiled, for each one of the monitored teams, an intervention Skill in which the activities have been described and which have provided essential material for the evaluation of each individual intervention team.

Exercise Scenario

The area identified for carrying out the activities is the Acquachiara locality, on Monte 3 Croci,located in the northern part of the Municipality of Teramo and better known as the "Rifugio delle Aquile" area from the name of a local tourist-accommodation business now in disused, already affected by numerous fires in recent years.

The choice of this place was not accidental, but the result of a careful evaluation of various peculiarities of the site. The territory examined is included between 900 and 1100 meters above sea level and has a vegetation typical of the Sub Montano - Superiore and Montano Inferiore altitudinal planes, which includes reforestation areas with conifers, low mountain thermophilic beech woods and shrubs with a prevalence of mesoxerophilous junipers, which therefore they guarantee a sufficient variety of flora useful for understanding the various types of forest fire. From the examination of the maps of the AIB Plan of the Abruzzo Region, the territory includes various perimeters of the Summer Pyrological Risk Map : from a medium-low risk for the reforestation areas, located immediately downstream of the buildings, up to a high risk in the areas rich in undergrowth located further down, towards the hamlet of Magnanella in the municipality of Teramo and the hamlet of Roiano in the municipality of Campli.





Figure 1- Digital orthophoto of the area of interest (Source: Geoportal of the Abruzzo Region)

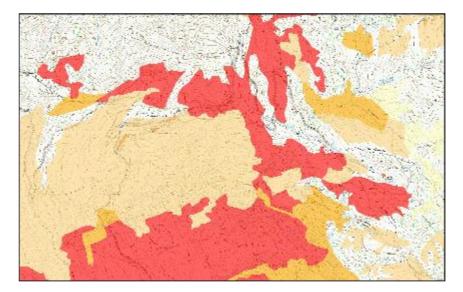


Figure 2- Extract of the AIB plan - Map 5 of the Summer Forest Fire Risk (Source: Geoportal of the Abruzzo Region)



A further reason that pushed our organization to favor the "Rifugio delle Aquile" area was the presence of numerous "mule tracks" represented on the maps and fully accessible with offroad vehicles, even of medium size, useful for carrying out access tests. with the means that the various associations and participating organizations have made available.

Exercise Plan

The planned activities envisaged the contribution of the various components involved in the forest fire fighting plans of the Abruzzo Region (CNVV.F and Civil Protection Volunteers) and were planned in such a way as to have a full- scale exercise exercise): the telecommunications network useful for the exchange of information and a local operational center aimed at coordinating the use of resources "deployed" and actions on the territory have been activated.

The event simulated a forest fire of arson in the Acquachiara locality of the Municipality of Teramo, previously identified, with different trigger points, affecting the wooded areas and brushwood and then reaching the buildings and infrastructures present; the various participating components contributed, each for their own skills (which were assigned in a completely random way), to the resolution of the emergency event, in order to understand the functioning and verify the validity of the organizational and intervention models, as well as the activation and coordination system, which have been prepared on the basis of what is indicated in the regional regulations in force. It should be noted that the participants were exclusively informed and trained on the operational procedures provided for by the Abruzzo Region Plan, currently in force, but they did not have any indications regarding the specific trend of the activities in order to obtain a simulation of the as likely as possible. Forces on the ground

Bodies and CP Volunteer Associations

The bodies and organizations that participated in the exercise are listed below:

- Civil Protection Agency of the Abruzzo Region (Supervision);
- Provincial Command of the Fire Brigade of Teramo (Coordination);
- Corpo Intervento Volontario Emergenza e Soccorso (C.I.V.E.S.) Teramo (Organization);
- A.N.VV.F.C Delegazione "Valli Teramane";
- P.A. Croce Bianca Teramo;
- · Corpo Volontari di Protezione Civile "Val Vibrata";
- Gruppo Cinofilo Volontari Protezione Civile Lupi del Gran Sasso;
- Protezione Civile Monti della Laga;
- Corpo Volontari di Protezione Civile Corropoli;
- Gruppo Volontari Protezione Civile Giulianova;
- Gruppo Volontari Protezione Civile Cellino Attanasio;
- Aquile del Parco;
- · Corpo Volontari Protezione Civile Roseto degli Abruzzi;
- Gruppo Comunale Volontari di Protezione Civile Torricella Sicura;
- Corpo Volontari Protezione Civile Nereto;
- Corpo Volontari Protezione Civile Tortoreto;
- Società Nazionale di Salvamento Sezione di Teramo.



The event took place in the morning of May 28, 2022 with two shifts divided according to the training sessions in order to divide the participants into groups of no more than 30 people.

Equipment

The Fire Brigade Corps of the provincial command of Teramo, has made available:

n° 1 AF / UCL: Car Van - Local Command Unit for the preparation of an Advanced Command Post,

- n° 1 an APS (Tank Pump),
- n° 3 Off-road Vehicles
- n° 1 Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (SAPR).

While CIVES made available for the organization of the exercise:

• N° 3 Observers;

• N° 15 Volunteers assigned to simulation activities (secretarial activities, Teams, "Triggers", WhatsApp Channel Management, etc.);

- N° 1 Car Van set up as a Mobile Unit;
- N° 1 tank for the helicopter of 6000 liters;

• 20 radio devices;

• N° 2 Off-road vehicles for logistic activities.

Carried out Activities

Logistic set-up

The first activity carried out by the Ass . CIVES was the drafting of the exercise document. For this drafting, topographic maps were found and verified on the land registry which areas were state property and therefore usable without private authorization. The various activities were then planned in chronological order. All communications to the bodies involved were prepared and materials and equipment were found.

In the days immediately preceding the exercise, following a first meeting, at the fire brigade barracks of the Provincial Command of Teramo, a first on-site inspection was carried out in order to identify and prepare the 3 simulated trigger points. Subsequently, the logistic installation areas and lookout points were indicated. On May 28th in the second inspection, this time in the presence of Eng. Di Odoardo of the Fire Brigade, the suitability of the places chosen in the impact document was verified. The same morning of the exercise, the facilities for the registration and the equipment necessary for the triggers were installed, with all the safety preparations.

Extinguishing and Sighting Interventions

The operational activities have been studied in order to have all the teams in the field carry out both the sighting and the extinguishing.

The first teams, sent to the chosen sighting points, reported the simulated "fires" at different times. The volunteers in sight, following the directives of the Abruzzo Region for the AIB 2021 activity, had to report the fire points with the coordinates and photos, using the WhatsApp number provided to them. On the basis of these indications, the teams for extinguishing were sent. The latter intervened



on the spot where they received indications on extinguishing and remediation techniques directly from the Fire Brigade personnel present.

In the second round the teams switched between sighting and shutdown, allowing everyone to test each role.

FINAL EVALUATIONS

Overall, the exercise had a good result both in terms of coordination and in extinguishing activities. The observers reported errors due to the inexperience of the newly trained volunteers such as: not perfect management of the module, imprecise use of equipment, difficulties in radio communications. However, the presence of the fire brigade made it possible to deal with most of these operational aspects on site, integrating the lessons learned in the classroom more effectively.

The exercise was also an important opportunity to test the efficiency of the Fire Brigade's chain of command, which was also able to test the use of the RPAS, with thermal camera, on the trigger points and their mapping through the TAS (The Service of Topography Applied to Rescue), which supports the activity of the CNVV.FF. with the use of advanced geographical information referring to the emergency scenario and in particular, to the scenarios that require the intervention of the National Civil Protection System.

Attachments:

Pictures:













List of participants:

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Sezione A

Modulo: M

Materia: Esercitazione Esterna

Data: 28 Maggio 2022

Docente: Agenzia Protezione Civile Regione Abruzzo VVF Teramo – CIVES Teramo

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