

New challenges for teaching avalanche rescuers and dog handlers in French mountain rescue.

8 years ago, the two entities, Police (CRS) and Gendarmerie (PGHM) merged for master dog training in the CRS instruction center in Chamonix (CNEAS).

That new organization has added of the need to adapt our teaching content to new operational constraints and new scientific knowledge.

Operational constraints lead to a new way of teaching avalanche rescuers, as much as use new technologies. It also leads to a new way of selecting dogs and dog handlers, raising awareness of the search for corpses, adapting our trainings to climate change and global warming (training in rubble search, landslides...).

New scientific knowledges lead to a better understanding of the snow pack that changed the approach of teaching avalanche search. It also leads to a better understanding of stress in dogs, and to a better understanding of the capabilities of avalanche dogs according to the snow structure and weather conditions.

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