

VOLUNTEER WATER RESCUE SERVICE (WOPR), POLAND

ACTIVITY REPORT

2010

1. Organizational issues.
2. Education.
3. Equipment and material base.
4. Sports.

1. Organizational issues.

The most important authority of Volunteer Water Rescue Service is General Assembly, which last session took place on 12th April 2008. Between the sessions, the most important role plays the Main Board and the Presidium of the Main Board. In 2010 both of the authorities deliberated jointly 8 times and took the decisions, among others, in the following issues:

- work program and budget for the year 2011,
- the establishment of the WOPR Scientific Council consisting up to 50 professors and doctors - scientific workers of Polish universities,
- equipment purchased by the Headquarters,
- WOPR Commissions (Education, Rescue, Sports, Management).

The Main Board also discussed the rate of drowning in Poland in year 2010.

2. Education.

Each year Volunteer Water Rescue Service pays a lot of attention to traineeship and improving qualifications of its rescuers. Last year this tradition was also continued. The following were held:

- a) 8th-9th May, training for WOPR lifesavers on white waters in Kraków,
- b) 14th-16th May, training for WOPR lifesavers on rescue jetski in Rowy,
- c) 14th-16th May, training for WOPR sites auditors in Darłowo,
- d) 16th-17th June, training for WOPR lifesavers on rescue jetski in Gdynia,
- e) 19th-20th June, training for WOPR lifesavers on inland open waters in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski,
- f) 19th-20th June, training for WOPR lifesavers on sailing regatta in Kiekrz,
- g) 26th June – 3rd July and 9th-16th July, trainings for the Senior WOPR Lifeguard rank in Rajgród,
- h) 3rd-8th and 17th-21st July, training for the WOPR Junior Instructor rank in Rajgród,
- i) 22nd-31st July, training for the WOPR Instructor rank in Rajgród,
- j) 27th-29th August, training for WOPR lifesavers – members of emergency response groups in Chańcza lake,
- k) 3th-5th September, training for WOPR lifesavers at sea in Kołobrzeg,
- l) 10th-12th September, training for WOPR lifesavers on kayaking safety in Tuchola,
- m) 10th-12th September, training for WOPR lifesavers on rescue jetski in Rowy,
- n) 10th-12th September, training for WOPR lifesavers on white waters in Wietrznica,
- o) 25th-27th September, training for WOPR lifesavers and instructors of emergency procedures and equipment in Rajgród,
- p) 29th-31st October, training for WOPR lifesavers on swimming pools and water parks in Warszawa,
- q) 5th-7th November, refresher training for WOPR instructors in Choszczno,
- r) 10th-12th December, training for WOPR lifesavers – members of emergency response groups in Warszawa,
- s) the entire year there were:
 - more than 20 trainings for WOPR lifesavers and instructors in first aid state certificates,
 - 567 trainings for the Junior WOPR Lifesaver rank,
 - 295 trainings for the WOPR Lifesaver rank,
 - 23 trainings for the Pool Lifeguard rank,
 - 12 trainings for the Inland Open Waters Lifeguard rank,

- 2 trainings for the Surf Lifeguard rank.

WOPR is now an organization of about 75 500 member, there is about 71 000 lifesavers, among which are 41 000 Junior WOPR Lifesavers, 21 000 WOPR Lifesavers, 3 500 Pool Lifeguards, 3 500 Inland Open Waters Lifeguards, 3 500 Surf Lifeguards, 1 100 Senior WOPR Lifeguards, 50 WOPR Junior Instructors, 600 WOPR Instructors and 50 WOPR Instructors-Lecturers. Only last year were trained: 6 785 Junior WOPR Lifesavers, 2 992 WOPR Lifesavers, 2 381 Pool Lifeguards, 2 237 Inland Open Waters Lifeguards, 2 113 Surf Lifeguards, 80 Senior WOPR Lifeguards, 25 WOPR Junior Instructors, 29 WOPR Instructors and 3 WOPR Instructors-Lecturers.

Between 15th and 16th September in Warsaw and Zegrze took place the National Conference on the subject "*Rescue on Time and Liquidation Waters Flood Risks*".

During last few years WOPR has developed strong cooperation with National Fire Department and National Police Department in the field of safety in aquatic environments. There are also projects run with participation of Ministry of Interior and Administration, Ministry of National Defence and Ministry of Education and Sports.

Moreover, WOPR pays a lot of attention to school chats, which proved to be a very effective method of popularization of safety rules among youth and younger children. Each year WOPR lifesavers make lectures on the subject and encourage children to gain at least basic swimming skills.

3. Equipment and material base.

Volunteer Water Rescue Service carrier several public auctions for manufacturing lifesaving equipment such as boats (8 items of various kinds), rescue jetskis (22 items of various kinds), 2 folding pontoons with aluminum floor, engines (11 items of various kinds) and others. This purchase was co-financed by investment funds from Polish Ministry of Interior and Administration and also by National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management.

4. Sports.

In 2011 has been held a series of sporting events, a total of 13 national competitions:

- between 18th and 20th June in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski has been held XVII Polish Lifesaving Championships. Lifeguards competed in six individual events and five team events. The competition was attended by 131 lifesavers with 21 teams,
- between 10th-11th December in Warsaw has been held II Winter Polish Lifesaving Championships. 115 competitors from 23 teams were competed in five individual and five team events,
- between 14th and 15th August in Ustka has been held Lifesaving Polish Cup on Baltic Sea,
- 24th-25th July (in Dźwirzyno), 31st July – 1st August (in Krynica Morska) has been held elimination and in 7th-8th August (in Ustronie Morskie) final for NIVEA Championships of WOPR Lifesavers. Total number of teams was 35,
- Polish Lifesaving Grand Prix held in Słupsk (6th February), Żyrardów (20th March), Rybnik (10th April), Świdwin (29th May), Augustów (25th September), Skierniewice (17th October) with final in Tychy (13th November). Total number of competitors was 748, they were representing 126 teams from around the country.

In addition to the national competition the Polish National Team has participated in four foreign lifesaving competitions, including Junior Lifesaving European Championships in Belgium, World Lifesaving Championships RESCUE2010 in Egypt, Deutschlandpokal in Germany and Grand Prix Moravie in Czech Republic.