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In the district of Kežmarok at the end of April RRT FTX Slovakia 2017 exercise was held. Its aim was to point out the period of summer storms and high temperatures that are accompanied by major floods and inundations as wells fires even in the district of Kežmarok. Such emergencies show their power in destroying and damaging property, environment, and cultural heritage and, in particular, in possible threat to

life and health of population. The exercise also pointed out some deficiencies that must be dealt with in the future. It is, for example, basic health care material in fire-fighter vehicles of voluntary fire brigades for fast response of responding services in the field and also GPS equipment for localisation of an emergency, or concentration of responding rescuers of various rescue services. Our voluntary workers could see such facilities in the equipment of Samaritans from abroad. Read more on pages 13 and 14.

Primary mission of rescue services is to provide help in emergency. In real environment rescue services cope with various forms of danger. Response is executed in a specific environment according to the type of a particular emergency with various equipment of rescue services and in various areas with presence of diverse flammable, toxic, explosive hazardous materials that may pose increased hazard for responding services. In general there is a high probability of injury occurrence at rescue operations. High level of protection with responding services is possible to be ensured in the form of providing them with suitable personal protective means and response equipment that meet required legal norms for use in such specific environment and thus reach high quality and effectiveness when rescuing lives, material values and the environment. Read more in the new column titled *Rescue Work* on pages 20 – 25.



On June 13 – 15 in the surroundings of the water channel dock in Gabčíkovo, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Championship of the Young Rescuers of Civil Protection Competition was held. The aim of the competition is to check and practise knowledge gained in the curriculum of Life and Health Protection, to be able to provide first aid, to prepare pupils for possible threats resulting from consequences of natural disasters, industrial accidents, terrorist attacks. To teach pupils how to act and what to do in case of traffic accidents, at school trips, at home, or in a shopping mall,



how to call rescue services at the emergency number 112 and thus rescue the most important thing – human life. 76 teams that succeeded in the district rounds and two visiting teams from Hungary took part in the national finals. The championship organizers prepared really rich accompanying programme for children and teachers. Read more about the course of championship and the winners on pages 48 – 49.