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Free time activities and activities on a frozen expanse of water can have the nature of organised or non-organised activity. But in conditions of the Slovak Republic non-organised activities prevail where no authorised person supervises safety and no safety regulations are observed. Ice skating is the most widespread activity in that regard, but in the last years so called long-distance ice skating is widening when ice-skaters cross the whole expanses of water, reservoirs, fishponds etc. Falling through the ice on the frozen expanse of water is quite frequent not only in Nordic countries but also on the territory of Slovakia. In winter months in particular, when due to minus temperatures

ice layer on expanses of water occurs. The author of the article deals particularly with methods of person rescue from the ice by units of the integrated rescue system. Read more on pages 9 – 14.

In the middle of September in the exotic setting of the Dutch Caribbean a new type of exercise in the format of so called Plug-In was held when the element of civil protection was incorporated into the military exercise titled Royal Dutch Navy Caribbean Cost 2019 in progress. The IDMEX exercise was organised in close co-operation with the European Commission and host organisations providing real conditions for testing the international activation of civil protection mechanism including mutual activities of rescue modules, technical teams, European civil protection team, institutions under the administration of UNO specialized in wider



response on emergency situations including humanitarian and other respective international participants. The Slovak Republic was represented by selected members of the ETC module – Emergency Temporary Camp. It is arranged by the Fire and Rescue Brigade in cooperation with the SR Association of Samaritans. Read more on pages 28 – 29.

In October in Račkova Valley in the Western Tatras mountain range autumn training of the Mountain Rescue Service dog-handlers was held. 28 dog handlers, two from the Czech Republic and 20 professionals, contract rescuers and role players of the



Mountain Rescue Service took part in the training. It periodically verifies capabilities of the rescue teams (dog handler and a dog) when searching for people in the mountain terrain, in searching for special chemical and synthetic scents and work with GPS apparatuses in searching operations. These activities are followed up with a winter training aimed at searching persons in avalanches. The training finished by holding the Cynology Rallye 2019. Its events verified performance and expert skills of dog handlers and the dogs themselves. They had to

prove reliability in area searching of role players in sectors after hours-long march. Dog handlers had to prove their knowledge in treating injured persons. Read more on pages 37 to 38.