



The KBR Rescue Bubble

By Dani Loewenstein

The “Rescue Bubble” is built by the Slocan based KBR Corp. (Kootenay Bubble Refinery). KBR Corp specializes in herbal extraction products and accessories, which utilize a strong, low friction and relatively light-weight material that comprises the structure of their envelope-type rescue sled.

Upon first inspection my initial thought was that the rescue sled was too hefty on the weight side and not very compressible. The tested prototype weighs in at 1.1 kg and fits in a cylindrical stuff sac about 45cm’s long. Upon testing, the weight and size became more amiable as there is no assembly required and the sled doesn’t require the use of “extra tubes”, as many rescue sleds incorporate. The design has the injured person’s skis securely fitted on the inside of the sled in 4 interior loops, catering skis up to 130mm wide. The tails of the skis are cradled in a shovel blade making the front of the sled. The injured party is held in place with a simple parachute cord system, which closes the envelope tightly. There are 3 good-sized handle loops on each side of the sled and one at the head. The haul lines are designed to efficiently pull the occupant with a low center of gravity and are long enough to not have the rescuers awkwardly close to the occupant. The head end haul lines are attached to a very slick head cradle guard that prevents snow from billowing into the occupants face. The Rescue Bubble is sewn well and cleanly but not over done.

I found the sled to pull evenly and quite easily as the sliding surface has a rubber like finish with two small diameter slings running across the base of the sled. The package stayed together and kept the occupant stable and low to the ground. I did find the base fabric to wear, but not tear when the sled was pulled over hard surfaces. One limitation is that the Rescue Bubble doesn’t have a rigid frame like some other designs. This could be an issue trying to immobilize a patient with a spinal precaution.

Overall, I found the Rescue Bubble to be efficient and easy to use. It can also be used as an improvised bivi shelter. The extra weight could be justified by the ease and versatility of this sled.

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