

# ISA SAFETY EVENT #1

## MOLESON - SWITZERLAND by ISA SAFETY COMMISSION

In August 2016 the ISA Safety Commission was officially established in Switzerland during the ISA General Assembly. The roots of the ISA Safety Commission are in the elaboration of scientific knowledge surrounding safe practices and safe gear in slacklining.

We conducted a public survey with more than 1500 answers in 2015. Safety and risk related topics were mentioned as key concerns all around the world. This motivated us to organise the first ISA Safety Event in September 2017 at Moléson (CH). Our goal through this event was to engage with manufacturers, engineers and slackliners interested in slackline safety.

Slackline science and slackline practices were the topic through 17 presentations, workshops and debates. In total, more than 60 people attended to learn, discuss and build the foundation of a future made of safe slacklining. During the three days we attended to rich and stimulating theoretical talks, workshops, common knowledge reflection and discussion about the future of the sport. We had the chance to explore a wide variety of subjects, all of which are available to review on the [ISA website](#) and the [ISA SlackEd Youtube Channel](#).

## WE SUMMARISED 3 TALKS THAT PARTICULARLY CAUGHT OUR ATTENTION:

## RESULTS:

### 1 HIGHLINES AND AIR TRAFFIC



Mr. Ronacher gave a presentation highlighting some of the issues linking highlines and air traffic. After exposing and detailing the biggest concerns and fields of conflict in relation to air traffic for slackliners, he offered his time to answer specific questions brought from the audience. He emphasized that the endangerment goes both ways, and that

mutual cooperation between governing bodies and slackliners will be the best course to avoid accidents. The outcome of this talk is already visible in many countries where associations are starting to work in conjunction with their air space traffic authorities and collaborate with helicopter and air rescue interests groups.

### 2 CARABINERS IN SLACKLINING



Mr. Buckingham addressed the subject of carabiners in slacklining and common forms of their use and possible misuse in rigging slacklines.

During his talk he examined concerns and explained some basics behind carabiners and how the differing materials and designs affect their use in slacklining. He further focused on the reduction of their breaking load due to geometrical misuse and cyclic loading fatigue.

His talk raised an interesting debate following the talk.

### 3 LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS IN SLACKLINING



Mr. Levy gave a talk about ethics and leadership in a growing sport.

Following his management studies he linked the concept of a growing sport, management challenges and slacklining. Exposing the power of leadership of individuals in their countries and the collective responsibility that all stakeholders in a growing sport have. This talk sparked a debate on the future of slacklining and how we need to treat the expansion of our sport.

### LABELS



In order to embrace our safety values, the development of quality labels has arisen. The plan is to test equipment against clearly outlined requirements, then award an approval label to equipment that meets a defined specification. Gear and kits can then finally be compared amongst each other. Labels involve ongoing social and technical research, material testing and data analysis to make grounded decisions.

As a conclusion out of the safety event, the key labels we have already written drafts on are:

**STARTER KITS, WEBBING AND WEBBING LOCKERS.**

### RISK ASSESSMENT FOR EVENTS



We are working on a comprehensive guide to risk assessments and recommendations for festival, event and contest organisers. The importance of having a good risk assessment is sometimes overlooked.

In order to help festivals and the community to be sustainable and durable we want to help guiding them through this process with good templates. A working group on this topic has been formed.

### S.I.A.R. REPORTS



We have just reviewed and analysed all of the submissions to the Slackline Accident and Incident Reporting form this year.

Analysing this data has proved extremely helpful at highlighting key areas that need to be addressed. We have made several advisories to the community based on these reports and will continue to do so.

This work is ongoing and we will continue to gather data from the community. Please encourage everyone to fill out S.I.A.R. reports!