

**PROFILE**

Article No. 990269

**Rallye Rejviz 2007**

Christoph Redelsteiner, EMT-Paramedic  
Chief of EMS  
Vienna Red Cross  
Nottendorfer Gasse 21

An integrated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team from four different Vienna Ambulance services won the prestigious Rallye Rejviz 2007 International EMS Competition held in the Jeseník Mountains in the Czech Republic for the second time in two years.



The Rallye Rejviz (RR) was created in 1997 as part of an EMS Conference celebrating the 20th anniversary of the EMS in Jeseník – the main idea being to encourage and promote international co-operation and communication between EMS personnel at a professional level.

The event runs over one and a half days and is based on the concept of testing emergency medical skills, driving, and management skills in a friendly, yet competitive and very realistic setting. As the term "rally" implies, competing teams have to drive from point A to point B to point C, obeying all traffic laws and without exceeding speed limits. Local police enforce the laws and any violations lead to a reduction of points. At each station, realistic scenarios are staged using actors. Some stations may occur at night and each team is required to apply theoretical and practical skills using a variety of different techniques, equipment and systems.

This year's scenarios included:

- 20 injured patients involved in a bus collision with a local train
- rescue of a church aid with fractured femur, from the top of a church tower
- medical care of a nun with lower abdominal pain, and a priest experiencing chest pain, while the crew attends to the nun
- full cardiac arrest

The evaluation criteria is similar to competitions held in the United States. Correct skills must be utilized and knowledge of emergency medical protocols, including ACLS, correct administration of medications and other interventions must be demonstrated. Safety aspects are monitored as are social interactions with the patient and bystanders. However, a significant difference between the RR and similar competitions held in the United States, is that teams in the RR (whose second language is English) are also judged on their patient assessment ability while communicating in English.

Depending on their home nation, the various teams involved in the 2007 RR consisted of:

- ALS Paramedics
- Driver, Nurse, Paramedic
- EMT, Physician, Nurse
- EMT, Paramedic, Physician
- EMT, Nurse, Emergency Physician

The 29 starting Teams represented sixteen Nations, including Japan, Ukraine, Netherlands, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Austria.

In 2004, three EMS professionals from the Vienna (Austria) Red Cross won the 2004 international ambulance segment. Last year a Vienna EMS interagency team of four people won. This year's team was completely staffed by new people, who consisted of: Branislav Hornak, EMT-I (Vienna Red Cross EMS) Carsten Harz, EMT-P (St. Johns Ambulance Service) Manfred Führer, EMT-P (Samaritan Ambulance Service) and Bernhard Saxinger, EMT-P (Vienna Municipal EMS)

*The team was managed by the author, Vienna Red Cross Chief, Christoph Redelsteiner, a US trained paramedic with licences in Austria, Germany and the US. While Christoph has coached four different teams who have won the Rallye three times, he gives full credit for this achievement to his different crews.*

*For further information regarding the Rallye Rejviz, please visit the official website: <http://www.rallye-rejviz.com/index.php>*