

How the Rally Bohemia Safety Plan is prepared?

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The Rally Bohemia belongs among the most visited automobile events in the Czech Republic. The safety of spectators plays an important role.

Automobile events were during the time gaining its popularity by conveying the show of very powerful cars, which are at the first sight not far from those from the series production. Spectators could enjoy the roaring motors, the smell of petrol and burnt tyres often from very close distance and the right amount of adrenalin was washed up into the blood flow. However as the power and speed of cars increased, also the safety plan of rally had to be changed continuously. This plan can be now very hardly compared to the one, which spectators during automobile events could experience decades ago. Unfortunately also accidents taking place on rallies influenced the adjustment of these safety plans and zones as well. Actually we can no longer experience the situation, where are spectators lined up along a special stage right at the edge of the road just before a car very quickly approaching.

How is the safety plan question answered at the Rally Bohemia? As same as on any other rally the Safety Officer is chosen. In case of the Mladá Boleslav's event it is young competitive ex-driver Pavel Pokorný, who together with his colleges checks literally every meter of the rally track and puts all the places, such as spectators' places as well as danger zones, into the safety plan. How about those overrated safety precautions, more specifically on this rally? **"When we build up the safety plan we have to secure every potentially dangerous place as forbidden entry for spectators. I know it sounds really strict, but there always is a small chance of a racing car getting into this area and in no way we can risk the health of spectators. Not all are enlightened enough to be able to predict, what a racing car can do during a slide. I think together with several other people over every possible place and so we select really the safest spots for spectators, where they can watch rally,"** Pavel Pokorný explains the philosophy of preparation of the safety plan, on which participates also another competitive ex-driver and the Member of the Rally Bohemia Organisation Committee, Stanislav Kafka: **"We, as the organizers, are responsible for preparing the track to be as safe as possible for drivers and spectators. Some people can say that they were in spectators' zones too distant from the action and couldn't feel the right adrenalin caused by racing a car passing by very close. We are prepared for these comments knowing, that some ones simply don't want to understand the fact of the real danger."**

Specifically the last years' Rally Bohemia received a criticism from a few fans saying, that some safety zones were overrated. **“The safety at special stages is something, from which we simply can't ease off. Over some of places of the track we think over and over again. Most importantly due to the safety of spectators and at the same time due to the fact that they should have a good enough spot to watch the rally. We have prepared tens of spectators places situated along the track of the 39th Rally Bohemia. All will be marked properly in the spectators' guide to the Rally Bohemia, from where they can safely watch drivers on special stages. By all means we request all, who would like to watch the progress of the 39th Rally Bohemia, under no circumstances to enter the track of special stages during the rally, to follow the instructions given by the track officers, and to avoid forbidden zones. We strongly believe that thanks to the real rally fans, which are eventually able to direct some unknowing rally visitors, we can successfully handle another anniversary of our rally,”** concludes Pavel Pokorný, the main safety officer of the 39th Rally Bohemia.

The request of the main safety officer should not be taken lightly, because should there be a conflict with the safety plan, the track officers are obliged to report it to the supervisory service, which can consequently cancel the special stage. Of course this is an extreme situation, but we still should bear this in mind. The safety of the automobile competition focuses beside spectators also on participating crews.

Stay tuned for more important information about spectators' places of this rally to come at www.rallybohemia.cz.

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