

Example of the Parks Canada policy (2011) to assist workers in making appropriate travel decisions.

## 5.4 Employee Policy for Travelling in Avalanche Terrain

The following standards define what levels of training are required to travel in specific types of avalanche terrain classified with the Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale. These standards apply to all staff subject to this Avalanche Safety Plan.

### 5.4.1 Group Leaders

Field trip leaders must restrict their travel to specific terrain as dictated by their level of *avalanche training* and what the daily avalanche danger rating is, as described below.

<b>Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale Rating</b>									
	<b>ATES</b>	<b>Simple Terrain</b>		<b>Challenging Terrain</b>			<b>Complex Terrain</b>		
ICS Type	Group Leader Requirements	Low/ Moderate Avalanche Danger	Considerable/ High/Extreme Avalanche Danger	Low/ Moderate Avalanche Danger	Considerable Avalanche Danger	High/ Extreme Avalanche Danger	Low Avalanche Danger	Low/Moderate Avalanche Danger	High/ Extreme Avalanche Danger
Type 1	CAA Professional Member	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Requires Forecaster Consult
Type 2	CAA Active Member <b>or</b> CAA L1 and 2 PC Avalanche Pros Evaluations *3	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Requires Forecaster Consult	Requires Forecaster Consult	Allowed	Requires Forecaster Consult	Not Allowed
Type 3	AST 2 or CAA Level 1	Allowed	Requires Forecaster Consult	Requires Forecaster Consult	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Requires Forecaster Consult	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Type 4	Enhanced Avalanche Awareness or AST 1	Allowed	Requires Forecaster Consult	Requires Forecaster Consult	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Type 5	Basic Avalanche Awareness Training	Allowed	Requires Forecaster Consult	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed

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## Definitions

ICS Type	Leader Qualifications	Training Required	Who
Type 1	CAA Professional Member or ACMG Full Guide	Highest Level: CAA Pro Member in Good Standing maintaining CPD registry. CAA L3, Avalanche Mapping and Avalanche Rescue Recommended. ACMG Full Guide also qualifies	- Staff meeting CAA CPD requirements for Professional, First Responder and required certifications current. Leads teams in avalanche terrain.
Type 2	CAA Active Member or CAA L1 and 2 CAA Pro Evaluations*	Highest Level for non-professionals: CAA Active maintaining CPD registry to the Active category standards OR CAA Level 1 and signed competency evaluation (* Note 2 & 3) by 2 senior Parks Canada staff with CAA Professional and/or ACMG certification	- Staff with CAA Active member in Good Standing OR previous history and/or current database of avalanche training. Requires ten (10) days per winter of documented backcountry travel in complex avalanche terrain, signed off by an ACMG Guide or CAA Professional employed by Parks Canada. May require field evaluation with the signing Professional; to be determined by the Park Avalanche Planner.
Type 3	AST 2 or CAA Level 1	- class and field training at enhanced level and demonstrated competency in: beacon use, terrain recognition, route finding, & regular companion rescue practices	- for staff wishing to lead trips into avalanche terrain as a function of their work and position. Evaluation process (TBD) by Park Avalanche Pros and recommendation by employees manager.
Type 4	Enhanced Training, AST or Equivalent	- ppt style training with basic avalanche awareness with addition of Beacon use, terrain recognition, companion rescue introduction/ practice....	- for workers off the Corridor, working alone in outdoor front-country activities, riding a sled , or flown into huts or assets for snow shovelling or hut maintenance. - Enhanced Equivalent requires signed Evaluation by 2 CAA pro members as for CAA Active members
Type 5	Basic Training	- ppt style training with basic avalanche awareness	- this is all staff working or commuting through avalanche terrain (mandatory to all staff in MRG by Supt direction)

### Notes:

1. Any travel in Unrated terrain or regions without published Avalanche Danger ratings requires Forecaster consults

2. Criteria to be established for Professional members to evaluate possible trip leaders

3. Requires ten days of documented travel in Complex Avalanche Terrain or co-active travel with 2 of Parks Canada's Avalanche Pros (CAA &/or ACMG) is followed by an Evaluation Process determined by the Park Avalanche Planner.

### 5.4.2 Group Members

All staff participating as group members (not leaders) in field trips in avalanche terrain must adhere to the following:

- In *Simple Terrain* no specific avalanche training is required. (Note that permission from the Parks Forecaster has to be obtained when travelling in simple terrain and the avalanche danger is rated Considerable/High/Extreme.)
- In *Challenging Terrain* all group members must have a minimum of AST 1 certification.
- In *Complex Terrain* all group members must have a minimum of AST 2 or CAA Level 1 certification.
- In *Challenging or Complex* terrain all group members must have attended an annual Avalanche Rescue Refresher training.

### 5.4.3 Group Requirements

All staff travelling in Challenging or Complex terrain must adhere to the following procedures

- Be equipped with a transceiver, shovel and probe
- Carry a communication device (radio, cell phone or satellite phone)
- Sign out with Jasper dispatch (10-70 check-in) prior to entering avalanche terrain.

### 5.4.4 Special Situations

At times workers may have tasks that require them to work in avalanche terrain that falls outside of this policy. Examples of this may be;

- The intended terrain to be travelled in is not rated by the ATES system.
- The intended terrain to be travelled in falls outside of the avalanche forecast area.
- Staff without the required training but need to unexpectedly travel in avalanche terrain. In this case the leader must be an ACMG certified mountain or ski guide who will undertake on-site training and risk assessment.

In these cases, a *specific avalanche safety plan* will be made in consultation with the Avalanche Planner. The following information will be required and may take several days to develop.

- What is the intended route and it's ATES rating (if available)
- Date and time when the work is to occur
- What level of avalanche safety training do the workers have?