

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS  
JOB DESCRIPTION**

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1.	Position Number (PMS):	Various		
2.	Functional Job Title:	<b>Snow Avalanche Assistant</b>		
3.	Classification:	STO 2		
4.	Location:	Various		
5.	Position Number:	Various		
6.	Functional Job Title: of Immediate Supervisor:	<b>Snow Avalanche Technician</b>		
7.	Classification:	STO 5		
8.	Location:	Various		

<b>JOB SUMMARY</b>	Briefly describe the reporting relationship, purpose, scope and content of the job. May be used for posting purposes.
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Under the limited supervision of the Snow Avalanche Technician, assists in the maintenance of a snow avalanche safety program by analyzing data to recommend a hazard forecast. Position can work independently in the field as required. As required, responsible for the maintenance and operation of Remote Automated Weather Stations.

Performs skilled technical duties independently in the field for observation, consolidation, and evaluation of relevant information for snow stability analysis and avalanche forecasting;

Responsible for avalanche forecasting, safety of the public and operating personnel, monitoring and conducting avalanche search and rescue operations, and recommending area closures in areas when not under direct supervision of the Snow Avalanche Technician;

Responsible for the maintenance and operation of the Remote Automated Weather Stations on a regional basis, as required.

Conducts effective short-term avalanche control measures, such as the use of recoilless rifles, avalanchers, helicopter bombing, explosive charges, or road closures;

Performs other duties;

<b>JOB DETAIL</b>	List key duties assigned and percentage of time spent on each. State what is done, why it is done, and how it is done. Add additional sheets if required.
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**50%**

- 1. Performs skilled technical duties independently in the office and in the field for observation, consolidation, and evaluation of relevant information for snow stability analysis and avalanche forecasting by;**

**SNOW AVALANCHE ASSISTANT**  
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- monitoring a manual and electronic data reporting network for standardized meteorological and glaciological observations to ensure a high level of quality and accuracy;
- disseminating and analyzing information, utilizing a computerized data system for data analysis, including statistical and analytical modeling programs, for evaluation of snowpack, meteorological conditions, effect of terrain, and snow avalanche activity;
- working safely in stressful situations in hazardous terrain.
- observing and evaluating snowpack, weather, terrain, vegetation, and avalanche activity
- evaluating short term snow avalanche hazards

**15%**

**2. Responsible for avalanche forecasting, safety of the public and operating personnel, monitoring and conducting avalanche search and rescue operations, and recommending area closures in areas when not under direct supervision of the Snow Avalanche Technician or Assistant Avalanche Technician;**

- controlling the movement of operating personnel, traveling public and commercial traffic within the control area, according to the level of avalanche hazard to provide acceptable standards of safety;
- making decisions and effective recommendations regarding the operation and safety of emergency vehicles, road clearing crews and highway closure and opening;
- organizing, directing and conducting snow avalanche search and rescue operations;
- forecasting snow avalanche hazard conditions; responding to changes in avalanche hazard conditions;
- initiating specific actions and states of alertness by Ministry and contracted personnel for current or anticipated snow avalanche hazards to the highway;
- recommending highway closures as required by conditions;
- conducting avalanche hazard forecasting in specific areas on a day to day basis,

**15%**

**3. Responsible for the maintenance and operation of the Remote Automated Weather Stations on a regional basis, as designated by:**

- inspecting calibrating, maintaining and repairing the electronic equipment of the Remote Automated Weather Station network
- identifying ongoing problems by monitoring the regional network, and recommending maintenance requirements;
- recommending new types of electronic improvements and equipment, testing and evaluating new electronic equipment under the direction of the Remote Weather Systems Technician

**SNOW AVALANCHE ASSISTANT  
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**10%**

**4. Conduct effective short-term avalanche control measures, such as the use of recoilless rifles, avalaunchers, helicopter bombing, explosive charges, or road closures by;**

- deciding the application of the most effective and economic short term avalanche control measure under a given circumstance;
- organizing and assembling crews, equipment and materials for road closures and patrols, explosive delivery, while ensuring that appropriate safety measures are taken;
- conducting safe dud search and disposal procedures;

**10%**

**5. Performs other duties such as:**

- presenting snow avalanche training programs to Ministry personnel;
- presenting information regarding the snow avalanche program to public information groups;
- assisting with development and testing of specialized computer software for avalanche activities;
- assisting the Snow Avalanche Technician by drafting technical reports on local snow avalanche programs and research projects.

**CERTIFICATION**

<b>Employee</b> I have read and I understand the contents of this job description		
Signature		Date
<b>Manager</b> This description is an accurate statement of the position's assigned duties, responsibilities and reporting relationship as of _____		
Signature	Title	Date
<b>Personnel</b> Job description reviewed by Personnel Officer:		
Signature	Title	Date

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS  
STAFFING CRITERIA**

1.	Position Number (PMS):	Various
2.	Functional Job Title:	<b>Snow Avalanche Assistant</b>
3.	Classification:	STO 2
4.	Location:	Maintenance Branch

**Educational and/or Occupational Certification**

Post-secondary technical diploma in forestry, geography, engineering, or meteorology with emphasis on avalanches and the properties of snow or related fields; or equivalent combination of training and experience. Registration as a Professional Member of the Canadian Avalanche Association.

**Experience and/or Achievements**

Abilities associated with four years satisfactory experience in snow avalanche related work, responsible for meteorological and glaciological observations, snow stability analysis, avalanche hazard evaluation, avalanche control and training of staff and members of the public. Experience in highway avalanche operations. A relevant diploma will be considered equal to three years.

**RATED QUALIFICATIONS**

**KNOWLEDGE**

Working knowledge of snow and avalanche phenomena and evaluation and management techniques including avalanche hazard forecasting, safety measures, avalanche control measures, and search and rescue procedures. Practical knowledge of meteorology, glaciology, and instructional techniques. Preference for knowledge of trouble shooting electronic weather sensing equipment.

**SPECIALIZED ABILITIES AND SKILLS**

Ability to instruct effectively, to write technical reports, to supervise, and to work independently and to respond effectively in emergency situations.

Ability to conduct field work and travel safely in hazardous mountain terrain by skis and on foot under variable snow and weather conditions.

Ability to effectively communicate with the public, and with junior and senior technical staff.

Ability to operate a computer using statistical data analysis software applications.

**OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATION**

Canadian Avalanche Association Levels 1 and 2;

Valid Blaster's Certificate (with avalanche control);

Valid level 2 or 3 Occupational First Aid, E.M.T., or Standard Wilderness First Aid Ticket;

Valid B.C. Driver's License.

## **PERSONAL SUITABILITY**

Capable of working well and/or taking charge in stressful situations with a high degree of tact and diplomacy in dealing with the public.

Willing and able to work outdoors in adverse winter weather, including blizzard conditions and extreme cold during snow investigations. Considerable exposure to moderate and high snow avalanche hazards.

Must be willing and able to respond as required for avalanche cycles during the winter season.