2.08 GSAR WINTER RESPONSE

2.08.1 GENERAL
The policy is in effect whenever a ground search and rescue (GSAR) group is conducting training, exercises, or is requested to respond (search or rescue) in a winter environment where there is potential for assignments in areas with avalanche risk.

This policy also covers responses to a known avalanche incident.

Related Policies:
- 2.02 Task Authorization
- 2.06 Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer Safety
- 2.12 Search and Rescue
- 5.07 Workers’ Compensation Coverage
- 5.08 Liability Coverage

2.08.2 DEFINITIONS
See Terms and Definitions

Also refer to current Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer (PSLV) Avalanche Safety Plan for definitions.

AOP – Avalanche Operations Plan
ASO – Avalanche Safety Officer
ASP – Avalanche Safety Plan
ASSO – Avalanche Site Safety Officer

2.08.3 POLICY STATEMENT
The purpose of this policy is to:

1. ensure the safety of GSAR responders where they may be responding in areas with avalanche risk;

2. promote a coordinated, integrated, and layered response to GSAR incidents in terrain that has potential for avalanche risk; and

3. provide a provincial framework for PSLV responders that enables a rapid response during winter conditions, including avalanche incidents, while maintaining rescuer safety.
2.08.4 CONDITIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

(1) GSAR volunteers will follow the EMBC PSLV Avalanche Safety Plan (PSLV ASP) when conducting training or responses where there is a potential for operations in areas with avalanche risk.

(2) A task number will be issued to the SAR manager of a GSAR group that meets the following criteria:

   a. has a winter response preplan on file with EMBC, and,

   b. has an appropriate avalanche safety officer available as outlined in the EMBC PSLV ASP.

2.08.5 AUTHORITIES

N/A

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Stan Bates
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2.08.6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 2.08 Winter Response FAQs
- EMBC Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer Avalanche Safety Plan