



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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S Bates".

Stan Bates
Executive Director, Response
Emergency Management BC

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2.08.6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

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