



### 2.08 GSAR WINTER RESPONSE

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#### 2.08.1 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Accompanying documents to the policy such as guidelines/procedures, forms, tables, etc.

- 2.08 Winter Response Policy
- EMBC PSLV Avalanche Safety Plan
- EMBC Avalanche Operations Plan
- 2.08 Winter Response FAQs

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#### 2.08.2 PROCEDURES

##### CONDITIONS FOR ON-SITE OPERATIONS

- (1) No Search and Rescue personnel are to conduct on-site operations until the Avalanche Safety Plan is implemented, an Avalanche Operations Plan is developed, and approval or direction of the Avalanche Safety Officer is obtained.
- (2) Onsite operational requirements include the following:
  - a. The EMBC Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer Avalanche Safety Plan is applied;
  - b. The Avalanche Safety Officer (preferred minimum CAA Level 2 – see ASP for details) will be appointed or requested through EMBC;
  - c. The Avalanche Safety Officer is a skilled and experienced command staff member responsible for the avalanche risk assessment and Avalanche Operations Plan (AOP) associated with the response. The ASP will have Advanced training as per the PSLV Avalanche Safety Plan. Whenever possible the ASO should operate independently of any other duties; and
  - d. The Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) will request the name of the ASO from the SAR Manager.
- (2) The Avalanche Safety Officer (ASO) will complete a detailed avalanche risk assessment to identify avalanche hazard zones and the level of avalanche risk to GSAR personnel;
  - a. The establishment and documentation of an Avalanche Operations Plan (AOP) to implement risk mitigation measures identified in the Avalanche Safety Plan; and
  - b. Where practical, the activation of a validated Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association (CARDA) Team;



- (3) All GSAR personnel working within an Avalanche Risk Zone must have completed, as a minimum, one of the following training courses:
  - a. The CAA Avalanche Skills Training Level 1 (AST 1) Course;
  - b. JIBC Avalanche Skills for SAR; or
  - c. The Justice Institute of British Columbia's (JIBC) Organized Avalanche Response Team Member course.
  
- (4) The Avalanche Site Safety Officer, at a minimum, must have an Intermediate level of training as per the PSLV Avalanche Safety Plan. This role may be filled by the Avalanche Safety Officer.