

POLICY BULLETIN

• • PEP Policy Bulletin 00.3 March • •

AVALANCHE SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE

General

The following policy supersedes that contained in:

PEP Policy and Procedures Manual (Article 2.10) dated July 15, 1998; and

PEP Policy Bulletin No. 99-1 dated February 1999

PEP Policy Bulletin No. 00 – 3 dated January 2000

The policy will be implemented any time a Search and Rescue Group is tasked to a known avalanche incident or if an avalanche occurs during any other Search and Rescue response.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

reduce the risk to search and rescue responders and to create a greater margin of safety to the local and responding Search and Rescue Groups;

increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the local Search and Rescue Groups and the field response operations to avalanche incidents; and

ensure Search and Rescue Groups have an Avalanche Response Pre-Plan and to promote an integrated layered response to avalanche incidents.

Definition

Canadian Avalanche Association Professional Member in Good Standing as defined by the Canadian Avalanche Association:

a) The person successfully completed Canadian Avalanche Association Industry Training Program Avalanche Operations Level 2 or equivalent technical training, or;

b) The person successfully completed academic studies acceptable to the Director, Membership Committee at a recognized post secondary institution, and;

c) During four (4) of the previous six (6) winters, the person was engaged full-time in avalanche related activities, at least two of which were in Canada, or was the direct supervisor of one or more persons

engaged in such activities and was involved in making decisions that affected the safety of persons and property with regard to avalanches and avalanche conditions.

Professional Members must abide by the "Code of Ethics". Application for Professional Membership requires a detailed personal resume which includes number of seasons/days spent working, what you were doing while professionally engaged in avalanche related work, and the name of your reference (s).

Search and Rescue Manager – a Justice Institute of British Columbia certified Search and Rescue Manager in good standing with the Provincial Emergency Program Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers

Policy

A task number will be issued to the Search and Rescue Manager of a Search And Rescue Group that meets the following criteria:

has developed an Avalanche Response and Safety Pre-Plan .

has a Canadian Avalanche Association Professional Member on site or one has been contacted and is en route.

Conditions

1. The Avalanche Professional will conduct a hazard assessment and assume the role of Site Safety Officer.
2. No Search and Rescue personnel are to proceed onto an avalanche site prior to the approval and direction of the Avalanche Professional.
3. All Search and Rescue personnel on the avalanche site should have completed, as a minimum, the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) Organized Avalanche Response course.
4. Only certified RCMP/CARDA/ Parks Canada Avalanche Search Dogs will be used during a Search and Rescue response.



Cam Filmer
Executive Director

April 7, 2009