

Supervisor, Managers and Mentors!

Important Information For Future Avalanche Operations Level 1 Students

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THE INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAM (ITP) continues to work towards alignment with the CAA's competency profiles through the Competency Aligned Avalanche Risk Management Training project, otherwise known as the CAARAT project. This 3-year project is thanks to the National Search & Rescue Secretariat's Search & Rescue – New Initiatives Fund (SAR-NIF) and one of the significant outcomes of the project is that the Avalanche Operations Level 1 course will now have an online component.

RESULT

As of summer 2019, the Avalanche Operations Level 1 has a new prerequisite – **Introduction to Avalanche Operations**. Delivered online, the course includes an introduction to:

- Important events that have impacted and affected the Canadian avalanche industry
- Avalanche risk management
- Avalanche terrain and the mountain snowpack
- How avalanches form and release
- Avalanche occurrence observations and recording
- Mountain weather
- Situational awareness and human behaviours
- Operational safety measures and mountain travel
- Professional avalanche rescue

THE COURSE IS SELF-DIRECTED

We estimate that students will take up to 25 hours to complete it successfully. Incentive to work through the material in a timely manner is built-in as students cannot register for Avalanche Operations Level 1 until the online portion is complete. Successful completion means attaining a certain standard on the learning checks. Mini-

assessments within the units ensure that students are capturing the essentials.

RATIONALE

The online course allows us to:

- Enable students to learn the basic Level 1 concepts and theories prior to the field-based course
- Reduce time constraints through less review and more time in the field
- Increase the quality of training

IMPACT

In addition to current Level 1 prerequisites, prospective students will need to complete the online course *before* they can register for Avalanche Operations Level 1.

LOOKING FORWARD

Our initial foray into the online platform is quite basic. However, the intent is to build on this foundation by adding various media, interactive exercises, assessment tools, animations, and videos to further enhance the learning environment and engage learners. We anticipate using the online model for other ITP courses, whether it be pre-course content, supplementary modules, or complete course delivery.

Ultimately, we see a lot of potential to optimize time spent in person and in the field by ensuring that students arrive at courses with the same foundation of knowledge. This is an exciting time to be exploring educational tools for our industry. Thanks to the support of SAR-NIF for enabling this project. 🏔️