



canadianavalancheassociation

Avalanche Search and Rescue Advanced Skills Student Equipment List

Equipment: Participants will be required to bring the following equipment to course. Day 1 is mostly classroom-based with brief sessions outside (weather permitting). Day 2 and 3 are field-based sessions.

Note: Past students have been arriving to course with inadequate transceivers which have affected their course outcome. **Please read the transceiver requirements carefully and look at the on-line information.**

Classroom

- Avalanche transceiver (three-antenna transceiver that is capable of alternate search strategies; and has fresh batteries, up-to-date software/firmware, and has been tested as per manufacturer recommendations) *
- Pen/pencil
- Student manual
- Notebook (or whatever you use to take notes)
- Warm clothes for brief outdoor sessions
- Snacks and drink

Field Days

- Avalanche transceiver (three-antenna transceiver that is capable of alternate search strategies, fresh batteries, manufactured after 2001, & tested as per manufacturer recommendations) *
- Shovel & Probe
- Ski and/or snowboard equipment suitable for travelling short distances in non-lift-accessed areas**
- Warm snow boots
- Food and drink
- Cell phone (optional)
- Clothing suitable for travelling in a winter mountain environment
 - Synthetic or wool long underwear (tops & bottoms)
 - Warm socks
 - Hat, extra mitts/gloves
 - GoreTex type jacket & pants
 - Fleece, wool sweater and/or down jacket
 - Extra warm bottoms (to be able to be add during the day if cold)
 - Sunglasses/goggles
 - Sunscreen/lip balm

* For the purposes of this course, participants need a three-antenna device that is rated by the manufacturer as a professional grade transceiver. With this type of device, you can practice and carry out alternate search techniques for multiple burials and deep burials. If you are borrowing a device, then be sure to practice thoroughly before the course because otherwise you may be at a disadvantage for the practical skills assessment.

“Single antenna (analog) transceivers are considered obsolete. Need convincing? Three antennae digital transceivers generally won’t find single antenna transceivers as well as digital units. That means if two people are buried close together, the one with the digital transceiver is likely to be isolated first. Signal overlap can also be a significantly bigger issue with old transceivers in a multi-burial scenario.”
Avalanche Canada, 2016 <http://www.avalanche.ca/gear>

** If you are not a skier or snowboarder please contact the CAA ITP Manager or Coordinator to discuss travel options. The Fernie and Whistler training locations are near the top of the gondola/lift and can be accessed on foot, whereas the training sites in Revelstoke, Jasper and Golden require skis or snowboard to access the training site. Regardless of the training location, we recommend bringing your travel equipment.