



# Avalanche Rescue Assessment Checklist

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## ASSESS SAFETY

- Rescuer verbalized assessing exposure to a second avalanche
- Rescuer defined a safe location for spotters and survivors

## CHOOSE A LEADER

- Rescuer verbalized assigning a leader or took charge and delegated tasks

## HEAD COUNT

- Rescuer asked for and communicated number of victims to rescue party
- (Multiple Burial) Rescuer verbalized basic strategy for multiple victims

## CALL FOR HELP

- Rescuer verbalized when to call for help, selected method of communication, and communicated appropriate information (at a minimum location and that an avalanche involvement has occurred)

## SWITCH ALL TRANSCEIVERS TO SEARCH MODE

- Rescuer asked group to turn off electronic devices and turn transceivers to search mode

## DETERMINE WHERE TO SEARCH

- Rescuer determined where to begin searching based on point last seen
- Rescuer communicated search strategy based on resources, number of burials, terrain features present, location of debris, etc.

### Comments on Initial Avalanche Response:

## SEARCH FOR SIGNAL & VISUAL CLUES

- Rescuer used a pattern (not greater than 40 m search strips) appropriate to mode and direction of travel to search debris, entering from the side or the toe, while moving quickly
- Rescuer looked for visual clues (or delegated the task) while searching for a signal

## YELL TO OTHERS WHEN FINDING CLUE OR SIGNAL

- Rescuer pulled clues out of the snow and left it on the snow surface
- Rescuer left a marker on the snow when beginning to follow a signal
- Rescuer notified rescue party when finding visual clues or a signal
- Rescuer called for a second searcher to assemble probe (and shovel)

## FOLLOW SIGNAL TO (1ST) BURIAL AREA

- Rescuer slowed down while approaching 10 m ensuring an assistant with probe accompanied search
- Rescuer communicated to allocate all team resources (including prober) at burial site
- Rescuer placed a marker on the snow or removed skis/board to visualize trajectory at 5 m
- Rescuer moved slowly and directed assistant to effectively probe ahead

### Comments on Signal and Visual Clues Search:

### LOCATE BURIAL WITH TRANSCEIVER

- Rescuer used an appropriate and efficient method (bracketing and/or probing in front of searching transceiver) to locate the closest signal
- Rescuer kept transceiver as close to the snow surface as possible while locating the closest signal
- Rescuer maintained consistent transceiver orientation while locating the closest signal
- Rescuer moves slowly enough to allow their transceiver to correctly process signals

#### Comments on Transceiver Search:

### LOCATE BURIAL WITH PROBE

- Rescuer used a consistent probing method (on a line or pinpointing with square or spiral pattern) with spacing no more than 25 cm
- Rescuer probed perpendicular to the debris surface
- Rescuer left probe in place on probe strike

### SHOVEL FAST AND EFFECTIVELY

- Rescuer used probe to identify and verbalize depth of burial
- Rescuer moved appropriate distance downhill from probe to begin shoveling
- Rescuer used appropriate shoveling configuration based on number of available rescuers
- Rescuer dug a ramp towards the victim throwing snow far away
- Rescuer changed shovelers often (if possible)
- Rescuer shoveled carefully when nearing the victim

#### Comments on Probing and Shoveling:

### (MULTIPLE BURIAL) LOCATE 2ND BURIAL WITH TRANSCEIVER

- Rescuer switched 1st buried transceiver to search
- Rescuer intentionally moved away from 1st burial towards marked point of multiple transceiver signals.
- Rescuer uses repeatable method to detect 2nd transceiver signal (marking, micro-strip, 3-circle, etc) if needed.
- Rescuer repeated steps from "Follow signal to burial area" through "Shovel fast and effectively" for 2nd burial

#### Comments on Locating and Extracting 2nd Burial:

### PATIENT CARE

- Rescuer verbalized clearing patient airway and assessing need for CPR
- Rescuer defined safe location to move patient and rescuers
- Rescuer formulated evacuation plan based on available resources

### CALL FOR HELP

- If complete call for help was not made initially, rescuer revisited call for help, selected method of communication, and communicated appropriate information

### IF A HELICOPTER COMES TO YOUR AID

- Rescuer verbalized securing loose items and waiting for helicopter to land and rescuer to come to them

#### Comments on Post-Extraction: