

APP CERTIFICATION TESTING CRITERIA

AVALANCHE RESCUE

The Avalanche Rescue category is intended to test the candidate's knowledge of an organized avalanche rescue, as well as their ability to perform in a practical rescue scenario potentially involving their control partner(s). A fully certified patroller will have a working knowledge of all aspects of an avalanche rescue including the ability to organize a rescue at a ski area or in the back country. A certified result requires a score of 80% on the oral test, and a transceiver search time finding two (2) transceivers buried 1meter deep in an area of 100 meters x 100 meters in (5) five minutes or less. An associate result requires 70% on the oral test and a search time of (7) seven minutes or less.

The following subjects may be covered:

Transceiver:

1. Manufacturer's technical data
2. Type of signal and how it affects the search pattern
3. Practical search range
4. Orientation and its importance
5. Null zones
6. Be able to describe a complete search, from no signal to pinpoint.
7. Be able to describe a technique for multiple burial recoveries.
8. Be able to describe the differences and similarities of digital and analog transceivers.

Search and rescue:

1. Safe travel on an avalanche control route (route selection is covered in the Avalanche Science and Evaluation Practical Test).
2. General rescue principles and logistics
3. Witness interview
4. Your ski areas organized avalanche rescue plan
5. Rescue equipment
6. Various roles fulfilled during an avalanche rescue

Note:

The oral portion of this practical test may take place indoors or outdoors. The practical skill with a burial of two (2) separated transceivers (simulated rescue) is an outdoor skills evaluation. You should plan on an hour for this test. Your skiing skills need to be suitable to travel in avalanche terrain from the standpoint of slope difficulty. As with all practical tests you may be asked if your evaluation can be audited by a non-testing person for education purposes. You have the right to deny this opportunity. More than one judge may be present during your evaluation for consistency of evaluation.

APP CERTIFICATION TESTING CRITERIA: AVALANCHE RESCUE, Continued

Required Items for Testing:

1. If new to testing you will need your Patrol Director's sign-off to confirm that you have the skills and knowledge to perform the testing criteria.
2. Be ready to ski with all equipment and clothing at the time of testing
3. Transceiver shovel and probe
4. If you have passed the oral portion of this test at a certified level in the past but did not find (2) two transceivers in (5) five minutes or less expect to be evaluated by re-taking the entire practical test (oral and dual transceiver search) the next clinic.

References:

- The Avalanche Handbook: McClung and Schaerer
- American Avalanche Association www.americanavalancheassociation.org/
- Your Local Ski Area Protocol and Avalanche Rescue Plan
- Association of Professional Patrollers – Study Guide
- Transceiver manufacturers' instruction manuals and websites, such as:
 - Ortovox <http://www.ortovox.com/typo7/index.php?id=259&L=1>
 - Barryvox http://www.mammut.ch/mammut/techinfos_avalanche_sub_e.asp?id=1541
 - Pieps <http://www.pieps.com/cms/media/manuals/pieps-manual-f-en.pdf>
 - BCA <http://www.bcaccess.com/documents/DTSOwnMan0607.pdf>
 - SOS http://beaconreviews.com/transceivers/manuals/SOSF1_BeaconManual.pdf
 - Arva http://beaconreviews.com/transceivers/manuals/ARVA_EVOPPLUS_2006.pdf
http://beaconreviews.com/transceivers/manuals/ARVA_Advanced_2006.pdf