

# ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PATROLLERS CERTIFICATION TESTING CRITERIA - HILL SAFETY

As professional patrollers we encounter hill safety concerns on a daily basis in all aspects of our ski area operation. It is perhaps our most basic responsibility. In addition to the various safety issues we have dealt with for years, we are now seeing enhanced terrain features and the resulting rope lines, markers and signage. Also, the operation of snowmobiles as part of our daily duties has escalated. Along with both of these comes the procedures and record-keeping required to protect our guests and the assets of our employers. This exam will test the patroller's knowledge and experience of current industry standards regarding all aspects of Hill Safety.

## Basic knowledge and skills needed to attain ASSOCIATE status:

The Candidate must achieve a score of 70-84% to be an Associate member. The candidate should be able to discuss the following:

1. Personal Safety: Patroller morning routine, procedures
2. First Chairlift ride: lift components, ANSI regulations and signage, lift & run inspections, load & unload of lift
3. Ski area set-up: grooming, tower pad and hazard making, closures
4. Scene safety: safety of scene, clues, protection for guest & patrol, how to approach guest
5. Snowmobile Safety Program: your areas' policies and procedure
6. Terrain Park Plan: Explain your area's Terrain Park plan and ski patrol's part in the procedures
7. Customer Service: Guest safety in ski and Mt. Environment

## Advanced knowledge and skills needed to attain Certified status:

For a Certified score the candidate must score 85% or better. The candidate should be able to discuss in detail and illustrate fully, by their knowledge, that they can take an active leadership role in their patrol in all of the above areas. In addition the candidate must be able to act as "Rescue Leader" for the following:

1. Lift Evacuation Plan
2. Missing Person and SAR plan`

### **Note:**

This is an outdoor oral test. It is about an hour in length. 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.

## CERTIFICATION TESTING CRITERIA - HILL SAFETY, 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 or ride with all equipment and clothing at the time of testing.

### References:

- National Ski Patrol and the National Ski Areas Association Join Manual: The Lift Evacuation Manual
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI) B77.1
- National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) Freestyle Terrain Notebook  
[www.terrainparksafety.org](http://www.terrainparksafety.org)
- Lift Manufacturers Operation Manuals
- Local Ski Area Protocol
- Association of Professional Patrollers – Study Guide

