

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PATROLLERS

TOBOGGAN CERTIFICATION TESTING CRITERIA and TEST

This test format, in most situations at most ski areas, will offer the opportunity to evaluate candidates with a top to bottom toboggan run. The test performed in this manner offers a few opportunities:

1. A simulation of a real rescue that Patrollers would perform as part of their duties.
2. An opportunity for the judge(s) to evaluate candidates while moving with the evaluation.
3. To utilize chair lifts for:
 - a. Questioning of candidates by the judge(s) of toboggan handling procedures
 - b. Observation by the judge(s) of a candidate's skill and knowledge related to transporting of toboggans back up to the top of the mountain.
4. The first part of the test will be performed on a lesser slope but still advanced or single black diamond in difficulty. If the team of handler and/or tail rope person is not performing the practical skills of toboggan handling in a safe manner the evaluation would be stopped before continuing to a steeper more challenging slope.

After the first part of the test is performed in a safe, satisfactory level as determined by the judge(s) the next part of the evaluation will:

1. Evaluate the candidate(s) on an expert level slope.
2. Traversing may be incorporated into the evaluation dictated by terrain changes and/snow conditions.
3. A belay station will be established where an actual scenario will be performed using anchors and a rope.

The content of the toboggan handling practical test relies on current snow conditions and the available terrain. The terrain where the practical test is performed should be at an advanced/expert level of difficulty (single to double black diamond levels). Less advanced terrain, if used, should incorporate terrain changes that are significant. The judges **must** access the course in order to gauge the relative difficulty of the day's conditions and terrain. The Head Judge and/or the Criteria Coordinator will have the discretion to cancel testing at anytime due to conditions.

BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED TO ATTAIN **ASSOCIATE** STATUS:

1. Proper checkout of the toboggan to be used. Doctoring or altering of the toboggan by the judge(s) is fair.
2. Knowledge of toboggans and their applications at the candidate's home ski area.
3. Approach to the rescue scene is controlled and steady with an empty toboggan.

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4. Proper anchoring of the toboggan at the rescue scene. The chain brake must be used.
5. Proper un-anchoring of the toboggan and transition into the fall line with a partner on the tail rope or rear handles.
6. Running with a loaded toboggan through a course that includes:
 - a) Fall line with course and direction changes.
 - b) Traversing.
7. Running with the loaded toboggan should be controlled and steady. No excessive speed or un-safe maneuvers will be allowed.

ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED TO ATTAIN CERTIFIED STATUS:

1. Know the advantages and disadvantages of different toboggans. This includes toboggans that might not be used at the candidate's home ski area.
2. Demonstrate proper patient loading position for specific injuries. This may be area specific.
3. Candidate should have no problem running the courses described above smoothly and with control.
4. Critique and/or demonstrate the setup and use of a simple Toboggan belay.

Note:

This is an outdoor, oral and practical, skills test. It is about an hour and a half in length. Your skiing or riding skills along with your and toboggan handling abilities need to be at a level suitable for single and double black diamond terrain. 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.

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
3. Ideally bring a partner that you have trained and practiced toboggan runs with and both of you test at the same time.
4. An assistant is needed as a toboggan rider.
5. Consider bringing a toboggan that you have trained with.

- References:** National Ski Patrol, Outdoor Emergency Transportation: Principles of Toboggan Handling (#500) www.nsp.org/EduPrograms/500.aspx
- Cascade Toboggan Rescue Equipment Company Inc. www.cascadetoboggan.com
 - Local Ski Area Protocol
 - Association of Professional Patrollers – Study Guide

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Toboggan Test

Goals of the Test

1. Risk Management
 - a. No Candidate should ever undertake any activity or maneuver with a Toboggan that he or she does not feel adequately prepared and equipped for.
 - b. Every Candidate must be responsible for identifying and evaluating any hazards and then mitigating the risk.
 - c. Toboggan Handling is for:
 - i. Transporting injured guests off the mountain to a First Aid Room and more definitive care.
 - ii. For prevention of injuries for guests that get into areas and runs beyond their abilities.
 - iii. **NOT** for injuring Toboggan Handlers or losing control of a sled.
 - d. To minimize and mitigate the inherent risk of this activity requires:
 - i. The Candidate(s) be honest with their abilities, skills, physical conditioning and past medical history. An assessment must be made with regard to terrain, snow conditions, and weather as well.
 - ii. The Judge(s) maintain the ultimate control to stop an evaluation when the candidate(s) do not demonstrate the knowledge and skill to perform the test safely.
 - e. A pre-requisite of Associate Certified or Certified in the Skiing, Snowboarding, or the Telemark Test.
2. Top to Bottom Test
 - a. Simulates more of a practical experience with injured guests on our mountains.
 - b. Keeps the Judges moving with testing much the same as the Avalanche Science and Evaluation and Hill Safety Practical Tests.
 - c. A chair lift can be used for discussion with the candidate in the same manner as the tests listed above.

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- d. The test should give a chance to evaluate candidates for more than just one toboggan run through a difficult course.
 - e. The Toboggan Test will include:
 - i. Transportation of toboggans back up the mountain.
 - ii. Unloaded toboggan transportation to the scene of an incident
 - iii. Loaded toboggan transportation straight down the fall line of a Black Diamond or Double Black Diamond run with varying snow conditions and natural terrain features with a tail rope person.
 - iv. Traverse(s) for practical, real life situations only.
 - v. Belay a sled through a very steep section using snow anchors.
 - f. The test can be planned in such a way to have a check point (at the bottom of the first loaded toboggan run as discussed above).
 - i. Those who demonstrate Associate level performance will end the test here.
 - ii. Those who demonstrate Certified level performance will continue.
3. Toboggan traverses will be demonstrated for practical, real life, situations.
- a. For speed control
 - b. To avoid obstacles or difficult snow conditions
 - c. Access the best route for injured guest comfort and efficiency of transportation. Examples below:
 - i. Move from a mogul field to a smoother run.
 - ii. Move from un-groomed to groomed slope.
 - iii. Move from "Out of Bounds" to "In Bounds" area.
 - d. **Traversing should not be** demonstrated through mogul fields at a high rate of speed to make a bamboo gate, which we would never do with a guest.
4. For a Certified Level an actual belay of a sled with snow anchors will be performed
- a. The Candidate will demonstrate knowledge of anchoring and belaying.
 - b. This exercise will be performed at the end of the Toboggan testing.
 - c. This exercise and the traversing exercise will only be completed by candidates that pass the check point with a Certified potential.