Canadian Avalanche Association

Course Outline
Avalanche Search and Rescue Level 2

Description	The Avalanche Search and Rescue (AvSAR) Level 2 course focuses on advanced avalanche search and rescue concepts and techniques essential to snow and avalanche workers who may respond to an avalanche incident as a team leader. The course develops AvSAR response leadership skills, techniques, and strategies, with an emphasis on managing an avalanche incident response, directing search and rescue activities, managing hazards and resources, and maintaining effective communication throughout an incident.
Prerequisites (Required)	• Minimum of 19 years for courses in British Columbia. • Minimum of 18 years for courses in Alberta and Quebec. • Incident Command System (ICS) 100 course. • CAA Operations Level 1.
Delivery Method	The course is delivered in two components: an online pre-course and a three-day in-person course. The pre-course includes online learning and an assignment completed prior to attending the course. The in-person component includes both classroom and outdoor field activities.
Duration	The online pre-course component takes approximately four to six hours to complete prior to attending the course. The in-person component takes place over three full days, with learning activities conducted both in the classroom and in the field.
Course Goals	Upon completion of this course the successful student will be able to: • **Manage avalanche incident response**. Lead and coordinate an organized, safe, and effective AvSAR response. • **Apply advanced search techniques and strategies**. Select and direct appropriate search techniques as conditions and information change. • **Apply advanced rescue techniques.** Direct excavation, patient care, triage, and evacuation activities. • **Implement post-response activities**. Complete documentation, debriefing, and other post-incident responsibilities.
Assessment	Participants' learning on this course is evaluated using two components: pre-course questions and an AvSAR team leader assessment. Students must be successful in both components to pass the course. **1. Pre-Course Questions** Students must complete a series of short-answer questions prior to attending the in-person course. The questions are marked out of 25, and students must achieve a minimum score of 17.5 out of 25 (70%) to successfully complete this component.

©Canadian Avalanche Association2026

2. AvSAR Team Leader Assessment

The AvSAR Team Leader Assessment evaluates the student's ability to lead an avalanche rescue response while demonstrating sound judgment, communication, hazard management, organization, and leadership.

Students must **lead from the front**, demonstrating competent, leadership-level hard skills while organizing the response team, managing hazards and resources, and directing search and rescue activities.

To pass, students must meet the established performance standard and assessment criteria. Upon successful completion, students receive an **Avalanche Search and Rescue Level 2 certificate** and written feedback from the instructor group.

AvSAR Level 2 Evaluation Scheme

©Canadian Avalanche Association2026