Avalanche Search and Rescue Level 2 Course

Student Equipment List

This course includes a combination of classroom and field time. The equipment listed below is required for each course day. Participants are required to bring the following:

Classroom Session Equipment

- ☐ Smartphone
- ☐ Tablet or laptop (highly recommended to access internet articles, websites, digital handouts, and exercises)
- ☐ Pen/pencil
- ☐ Notebook (or whatever you like to use to take notes)
- ☐ A 3-ring binder or duotang
- ☐ A field book

Carefully read the following transceiver *requirements* and *recommendations* for probes and shovels.

Field Session Equipment

Avalanche Transceiver

- ☐ Modern, digital and three-antenna
- ☐ Marking function or signal suppression
- ☐ Capable of performing alternate search strategies
- ☐ Ensure that your transceiver:
  - Has fresh batteries.
  - Battery compartment has been inspected for corrosion.
  - Is updated with the latest firmware.
  - Has been maintenance tested as per manufacturer recommendations.

Note: The transceiver features listed above are required for this course. For more information, find websites that provide current transceiver reviews and information regarding transceiver features and their respective functionality. Upon registration, the CAA will ask what transceiver brand and model you currently have. The course leader will contact you prior to the beginning of the course if your transceiver is not appropriate for this course and will give guidance on what actions to take.

Probe

Recommended features:

- ☐ Length equal to or greater than 300cm.
- ☐ First segment interfacing with the tip is a different colour than all the other remaining segments.
- ☐ Unique band of colour at 150cm.
- ☐ Metric scale clearly marked on the entire probe length.
- ☐ Good condition with no obvious cracks, bends, damaged cable or locking mechanism.

Shovel

Recommended features:

- ☐ Handle is easy to hold and can be used with gloves on.
- ☐ Shovel blade and shaft are strong and made of metal.
- ☐ Shaft is extendable.

- Shovel blade has a relatively large surface area and flatter blade edge (useful for avalanche rescue and snow science applications).
- **Not** a camping shovel or a shovel made for roadside vehicle emergencies.

Note: The International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) provide probe and shovel testing and certification, however UIAA-certified probes and shovels are not always the best choice for avalanche search and rescue (AvSAR) or snow science work. For example, a UIAA-certified shovel may have a blade shape appropriate for AvSAR work but is not effective for creating smooth snow profile walls for snow science. Another example is that a UIAA-certified shovel might not have a hoe mode, this mode can be used to quickly carve out flat helicopter landing areas or move snow efficiently during excavation efforts of a buried subject or clearing snow for a snow profile. There are many probes and shovels on the market that meet the above lists of recommendations but are not UIAA-certified.

Touring Equipment

- Ski or snowboard equipment suitable for travelling short distances in non-lift-accessed areas.**
  - Touring skis and bindings (with brakes or leash) or splitboard.
  - Ski poles and boots.
  - Skins for skis or splitboard.
  - Ski/snowboard helmet.
- Snowmobile equipment for snowmobile-specific courses.
  - Snowmobile with scratchers, adequate for course objectives and in good repair.
  - Appropriate tools and equipment for snowmobile maintenance.
  - Fuel (dependent on course location).
  - DOT snowmobile helmet.
- Backpack (at least 30 litres).
- Warm winter boots.
- Gloves with good dexterity to operate your transceiver effectively and efficiently.
- Food and drink.
- Warm clothes (suitable for travelling and standing around in a winter mountain environment).
  - Synthetic or wool long underwear (tops & bottoms).
  - Warm socks.
  - Hat (toque/ball cap).
  - Extra mitts/gloves.
  - Gore-Tex type jacket & pants.
  - Fleece, wool sweater and/or down jacket.
  - Extra warm bottoms (down or synthetic pants/shorts).
  - Hand and toe warmers.
  - Sunglasses/goggles.
  - Sunscreen/lip balm.

** If you are not a skier or snowboarder, please contact ITP Student Services to discuss travel options.