



ANNOUNCEMENT – NEW ORGANIZED AVALANCHE RESPONSE COURSES

The former SAR500 Organize Avalanche Response Team Member course has recently been discontinued and replaced with two new courses.

In consultation with EMBC and subject matter experts, it was determined that training for potential OAR team members should begin with a firm understanding of basic skills for travelling in avalanche terrain, followed by a second level of training to teach avalanche search and rescue techniques.

Each of these courses is presented in a blended learning model, consisting of an introductory online module followed by a face-to-face classroom and field portion.

SAR150 – Avalanche Skills for Search and Rescue: This course is available to any GSAR member who has completed the SAR100 Ground Search & Rescue (GSAR) course. The course teaches additional skills for GSAR members who wish to improve their ability to travel safely in avalanche terrain, and includes companion rescue techniques.

SAR150 is also a pre-requisite for any GSAR member who is working towards becoming an OAR team member.

Note: Applicants who have completed the Canadian Avalanche Association Avalanche Skills Training Level 1 (AST1), and can provide the appropriate documentation, are not required to complete SAR150 prior to registering for SAR151.

SAR151 – Organized Avalanche Response Team Member: This course provides participants with the skills necessary to safely respond to avalanche incidents as part of an inter-agency team in potentially unstable terrain, and includes techniques such as wandering, probing, searching and shovelling.

The first offering of SAR150 takes place on December 2-4, 2011 at Mt Washington (Vancouver Island Region) followed by the launch of SAR151, also at Mt Washington, on January 13-15, 2012. For additional offerings in other regions, please refer to the SAR Training Schedule on the JIBC website.