



**JUSTICE
INSTITUTE**
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Organized Avalanche Response - Team Member

Course Description: The Organized Avalanche Response Team Member course provides participants with the skills necessary to safely respond to winter SAR incidents through or in avalanche terrain. This blended course is delivered via online introductory modules followed by face-to-face classroom and field portions. The focus of the course is on organized avalanche search and rescue techniques such as wandering, probing, transceiver searching, shoveling, and transportation of subjects. The course also includes aspects of higher ICS functions in OAR operations, group safety measures, specialized equipment used in avalanche response, and identifying potential avalanche terrain from maps. The course is intended for SAR volunteers who may respond through or within avalanche terrain.

Prerequisites: Participant must be a member of an EMBC-recognized SAR group and have completed EMRG-1700 (formerly SAR100) Ground Search and Rescue and EMRG-1750 (formerly SAR150) Avalanche Skills for SAR (or equivalent) courses. The recognized equivalent of EMRG-1750 (formerly SAR150) is the CAC Avalanche Skills Training Level 1 (AST 1) course. A copy of your AST 1 certificate must be provided with your application.

Costs: Participant course fees are covered by BCSAR and EMBC for eligible SAR members. Students are responsible for arranging their own travel, meals and accommodations.

Students from WITHIN the course region, may apply for travel reimbursement through BCSARA upon submission of an [expense reimbursement form](#). Mileage is reimbursed at \$0.52 per km for student from within the course region, and CARPOOLING is strongly encouraged. Your efforts to carpool will help BCSARA manage the travel expenses more efficiently.

Mileage reimbursements for out-of-region students, MUST be pre-approved by your BCSARA Regional Director and are considered on an individual basis. Contact your Regional Director directly for details. If you do not know who your Regional Director is, contact sarsupport@bcsara.com. For general BCSARA inquiries/comments, contact vice-president@bcsara.com.

Required Equipment: The following is a minimum list of personal equipment that should be brought by each participant. Students may be asked to bring additional SAR team gear by the instructors if it is deemed necessary:

- Basic personal equipment for winter trips
- Backpack - large enough to hold all equipment plus some extra (30-40 litres)
- Mountain jacket with hood - waterproof/breathable type
- Outer pants - waterproof/breathable type
- Personal clothing for all weather - layering works well, no cotton
- Gloves - wool or synthetic (1 pr. plus 1 pr. extra)
- Over mitts (1 pair)
- Gaiters to fit over boots (1 pair)
- Warm jacket or sweater - wool or fleece, no cotton (1)
- Toque - wool or fleece (1)
- Hat with sun visor (baseball cap, etc.) (1)
- Sunglasses with 100% UV blockage (1 pair)
- Ski goggles (1 pair)
- Flashlight or headlamp - small size with fresh batteries (1)
- Water bottle - 1 litre (1)
- Compass & map in waterproof bag
- Compass with clinometer or inclinometer
- Notepad and pencil
- Knife
- Matches or lighter
- Avalanche transceiver (457mhz) and spare batteries
- Probe
- Shovel
- Avaluator v2.0 (if you have one from your previous SAR150 or AST1 course)
- Avalanche Search and Rescue (AvSAR) Response Manual (CAA, 2010)

[Note: Manual is mailed out to students once they have been confirmed]

Method of travel: (Student **must** be proficient in travelling in winter conditions using the chosen travel mode)

- Skis for backcountry touring - alpine touring or Nordic, must be metal-edged *
- Climbing skins for skis
- Appropriate boots (must be suitable for use in deep snow conditions without skis)
- Ski poles
- Small repair kit

OR

- Snowshoes - must have crampons for travel in icy conditions
- Appropriate boots (must be suitable for use in all conditions without snowshoes)
- Ski poles
- Small repair kit

Volunteer Assistants: We require two people to assist instructors with the course. Minimum requirements for a Volunteer Assistant are:

- OAR Team Member certificate
- Exceptional winter travel skills
- Leadership ability

Please forward applications for eligible candidates for these two positions to the JIBC.