

Competency Profiles and Proficiency Scale for CAA Member

Level of Practice	Practitioner in Training	Avalanche Practitioner	Avalanche Professional	Advanced Practice Avalanche Professional Includes PEng., scientists, consultants, sector specialists, etc.	
Education	- CAA Avalanche Operations Level 1 & prerequisites	- CAA Avalanche Operations Level 1 & prerequisites - CAA Introduction to Professionalism - Workplace Portfolio and Avalanche Practitioner application	- CAA Avalanche Operations Level 2 & prerequisites - Workplace Portfolio and Avalanche Professional application	Advanced education, additional ITP courses, CPD, ISSW, external certification	
Proficiency Levels	1 Basic	2 Capable	3 Proficient	4 Specialist	5 Expert
Knowledge	Very limited knowledge of avalanche risk management, its main processes, methods, and tools	Limited knowledge of avalanche risk management, its main processes, methods, and tools	Good level of knowledge in all aspects of avalanche risk management, all its processes, methods and tools. Capable of explaining the application of the processes	High level of knowledge in all aspects of avalanche risk management, all its processes, methods and tools to assess and validate improvements. Ability to coach others on contents and methods in the context of their workplace	Extensive knowledge of avalanche risk management, both internal to their organization and external to their sector. Contributes to set externally recognized standards. Ability to define contents and methods for using knowledge effectively in influencing and developing international processes. Ability to influence the process with one's knowledge
Experience	Little experience in this subject	Sufficient experience to deal with recurrent activity	Has enough experience in avalanche risk management to also deal with unforeseen issues	Wide proven experience in avalanche risk management. Is recognized specialist within the field of expertise	Demonstrates world class expertise, in recognized international organizations
Autonomy	Capable of performing basic routines under direct supervision	Capable of performing standard tasks under readily available supervision	Capable of performing tasks autonomously within a pre-defined framework	Capable of performing tasks in complex situations	Capable of performing tasks in complex situations
Leadership & Communication	Little to no proven skills	Capable of straightforward clear communication. Basic leadership skills	Demonstrates consistent, appropriate, and highly functional leadership skills	Capable of leading changes at an organizational level	Capable of leading changes industry-wide



Trailhead Procedure

- Transceiver check (signal strength)
- Personal gear check (everyone has the gear they need for the day)
- Group gear check (Group has the gear needed for the trip)
- Local weather check (is it as expected? How will this affect the conditions)
- Facets check (are human factors under control?)
- Obvious clues check (If possible to see avalanche terrain)
- Personal avalanche risk comfort level check (everyone still ok with going ahead?)
- Assign lead and tail positions(consider what gear is where in the line-up)
- Establish communication procedures (Stay in voice or visual contact)
- Communication device review (ensure everyone knows how to use it)
- Emergency communication check (Check radio or sat coverage)
- Establish next regroup point if practical (so everyone knows where to go and how far it is)

*Many of these can be done the night before or while driving to the trailhead

Post Trip Review

A self critique of how a trip went and your own performance on a trip are essential if you are to learn from your experiences and gain knowledge from them.

Some questions to ask yourself after a trip are:

- Was the rating I got from the trip planner accurate?
 - If yes, what did I do right that I should do again next time?
 - If no, what may have caused the inaccuracy?
 - How can I improve the trip planning process next time?
- Did the obvious clues checklist give me an accurate assessment of the avalanche slopes encountered?
 - If yes, what did I do right that I should do again next time?
 - If no, what may have caused the inaccuracy?
 - How can I improve the trip planning process next time?
- Did I allow human factors to influence my decision?
 - If no, what did I do right that I should do again next time?
 - If yes, what steps can I take to minimize the influence of human factors next time?
- Did my group work well as a team?
 - If yes, what did I do right that I should do again next time?
 - If no, what caused the breakdown in teamwork?
 - How will I improve the teamwork next time?
- Did the trip fall in my personal avalanche risk comfort zone?
 - If yes, what did I do right that I should do again next time?
 - If no, what was I uncomfortable about?
 - What can I do to ensure I don't exceed my comfort zone next time?
- What are the three most important things I learned on this trip that will improve my skills and knowledge and enable me to do better on my next trip?

If you had an incident or if you observe notable avalanche activity, reporting it to the CAC and discussing it can help others learn and improve safety on their trips. To report an incident, go to avalanche.ca: <https://avalanche.ca/mountain-information-network/submit>

Trip Plan

Leader: _____ **Trip & Date:** _____

Your route, ATEs rating, current avalanche conditions, and weather forecasts: _____

Who/how many are in the group: _____

Where you plan to park: _____

Vehicle's license plate number: _____

Time you will leave: _____

Expected to return time: _____

Communication device carried on your trip: _____

Your emergency plan in event of incident: _____

Safety Equipment carried: _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____

Time you will check in at the end of the day: _____