

Title	Demonstrate knowledge of avalanche danger for personal safety		
Level	3	Credits	8

Purpose	<p>This unit standard is intended for people working in the mountain environment who need awareness of avalanche danger and weather change for decision making and personal safety.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe signs of potential avalanche danger and weather change in a mountain environment, and their consequences; describe the role of human factors in decision making in relation to potential avalanche danger; and demonstrate and apply knowledge of responses to potential avalanche danger and weather change in a mountain environment.</p>
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Classification	Snowsport > Avalanche
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 All learning and assessment against this unit standard must be carried out in accordance with the following:
 - relevant legislation including the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, Accident Compensation Act 2001, Privacy Act 1993, and the Human Rights Act 1993, and subsequent amendments and associated regulations;
 - industry codes including *Snow Safety Code* and *Outdoor Safety Code*; (available at <http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz>);
 - organisational policies and procedures including Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and the use of personal protective equipment.
- 2 Definition

Organisational policy and procedures are instructions to staff that may be documented and available for reference at each alpine resort in the form of an operations manual and/or policy and procedures manual.
- 3 Simulations may be used for assessment against this unit standard.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe signs of potential avalanche danger and weather change in a mountain environment, and their consequences.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Describe signs of potential avalanche danger.
- Range includes but is not limited to – terrain, slope angle, weather change, recent avalanches.
- 1.2 Describe types of weather change in relation to potential avalanche danger.
- Range includes but is not limited to – wind loading, cloud cover and solar radiation influence, new snowfall, rain, rapid changes in temperature.
- 1.3 Describe the consequences of weather change for snowpack and avalanche danger in terms of impacts for people and the mountain environment.
- Range the mountain environment relevant to the trainee's workplace context.
- 1.4 Obtain weather and avalanche forecast information and describe potential impact on the mountain environment.
- Range the mountain environment relevant to the trainee's workplace context.

Outcome 2

Describe the role of human factors in decision making in relation to potential avalanche danger.

- 2.1 Describe the influence of human factors on decision making in relation to potential avalanche danger.
- Range includes but is not limited to – familiarity, acceptance, consistency and/or commitment, expert halo, tracks and/or scarcity, social facilitation (FACETS).

Outcome 3

Demonstrate and apply knowledge of responses to potential avalanche danger and weather change in a mountain environment.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Describe the actions to be taken upon identification of signs of potential avalanche danger and weather change, in terms of safety.
- Range includes but is not limited to – actions for personal safety, actions or reporting for safety of others.
- 3.2 Carry out avalanche search techniques for companion rescue under direct supervision.
- Range includes but is not limited to – visual search, transceiver search, probe line and spot probing, digging, non-contamination of site.

Planned review date	31 December 2024
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	27 February 2020	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0099
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Skills Active Aotearoa Limited info@skillsactive.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.