



PATROLLER KNOWLEDGE BASE -  
MEDICAL

[Document subtitle]

## ABSTRACT

An overview of the medical topics ski patrollers should receive training in, to be competent on-snow first responders.

## **Introduction** - What is a ski patroller?

“A good patroller strives to promote safety for the public and all employees. This is an ongoing endeavour which involves everyone and includes clear communication, training, teamwork, setting a good example and constant vigilance.

Patrolling is a demanding and difficult job which puts a premium on individual responsibility and good judgment. It also has many rewards; skiing and working in a beautiful environment and being part of a team dedicated to excellence in emergency response, safety accident prevention and emergency medicine.

In all interactions with fellow employees and the public, the ski patrol must work with all departments to create an atmosphere of mutual help, safety and care for each other and the environment. A positive attitude towards problem-solving and joy of the area and its people, are at the core of a good patrol.” – Bill Purtymun

A patroller:

- Advocates for safety for all involved in outdoor sports activities including/staff, ensuring adherence to rules/regulations, and performing proactive prevention strategies
- Monitors area terrain for changes in conditions due to traffic, wear and tear on features and warning devices, weather, and weather effects
- Responds to incidents including both medical care and transport to a dedicated area facility
- Conveys information with clarity and accuracy in verbal, and written communication
- Manages resources, equipment, and personnel at a scene
- Is a team member and area representative collaborative relationships/problem-solving
- Is an accomplished skier/rider able to safely navigate all inbounds area terrain.

## Competencies

### Performance elements

#### RESPONSE

- 1.1. Recognize and assess an emergency situation.
- 1.2. Ensure safety for self, bystanders, and casualty.
- 1.3. Assess the casualty and recognize the need for first aid response.
- 1.4. Seek assistance from emergency services.

#### PROVIDE CARE

- 2.1. Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in accordance with ILCOR, national guidelines, and local protocol(s).
- 2.2. Provide first aid in accordance with established first aid principles.
- 2.3. Display respectful behaviour towards the casualty.
- 2.4. Obtain consent from casualty where possible.
- 2.5. Use available resources and equipment to TRANSPORT\* the casualty as safely and comfortably as possible. [\*only wording change from the Congress material]
- 2.6. Operate first aid equipment according to manufacturers' instructions.
- 2.7. Monitor the casualty's condition and respond in accordance with first aid principles.

#### COMMUNICATE

- 3.1. Accurately convey incident details to emergency services.
- 3.2. Report details of the incident in line with appropriate workplace or site procedures.
- 3.3. Complete applicable workplace or site documentation, including incident report form(s).
- 3.4. Maintain privacy and confidentiality of information in line with statutory or organizational policies.

#### INCIDENT REVIEW

- 4.1. Recognize the possible psychological impacts on self and other rescuers and seek help when required.
- 4.2. Contribute to a review of the first aid response as required.

## Knowledge elements

### APPROACH TO THE PATIENT

Scene awareness and safety, body substance isolation, triage  
Structured Patient Assessment i.e. ABCDEs - BLS/CPR  
Airway management including oxygen administration and adjuncts  
Bleeding control measures including the use of tourniquets to reduce Shock  
Wound/soft tissue injury management  
Pain management

### TRAUMA

Head/face/eye/dental  
Neck/back/spine +Spinal Motion Restriction  
Chest  
Abdomen/pelvis  
Musculoskeletal +Fracture management  
Non-accidental - child abuse/sexual assault

### ILLNESS

Neurological including seizures and stroke  
Cardiovascular conditions including myocardial infarction (MI) and cardiac arrest  
Respiratory including acute asthma  
Metabolic conditions including diabetes  
Infection prevention including COVID precautions  
Allergy and Anaphylaxis  
Psychiatric/behavioural

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Heat/cold  
Burns  
Plant/animal envenomation  
Altitude/immersion  
Avalanche Burial, Drowning

### SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

Pediatric/Geriatric/Adaptive/Pregnant

“SYSTEMS”

Patient moving, lifting, and transporting methods

Extrication

Lift evacuation

Communications and Reporting

Incident management

Coordination of care/ Emergency care systems