

FIPS Guidelines Document



PATROLLER
KNOWLEDGE
BASE - MEDICAL

ABSTRACT

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

Table of Contents Biopsy

- Reviewed the Table of Contents from current patrol manuals
 - Sweden
 - Australia
 - United States
 - Canada

Looking for Commonality

- Settled on common terminology
- Respectful of national versions
- Recognition of international standards and bodies
 - ILCOR – International Liaison Committee On Resuscitation
 - ICAR – International Commission on Alpine Rescue
 - Heart and Stroke organizations
 - CSA – Canadian Standards Association

What is a Patroller?

- “A good patroller strives to promote safety for the public and all employees. This is an ongoing endeavor 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 judgement. 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 patroller.” – Bill Purtymun

A patroller:

- Advocates for safety for all involved in winter sport activities including guests/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, written and textual 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 the inbounds area terrain.

Performance Competencies

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.

- 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 behavior towards 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.
- 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 incident in line with appropriate workplace or site procedures.
- 3.3. Complete applicable workplace or site documentation, including incident report form.
- 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 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/behavioral

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