

# weather

INFORMATION  
REGISTRATION  
2005-06

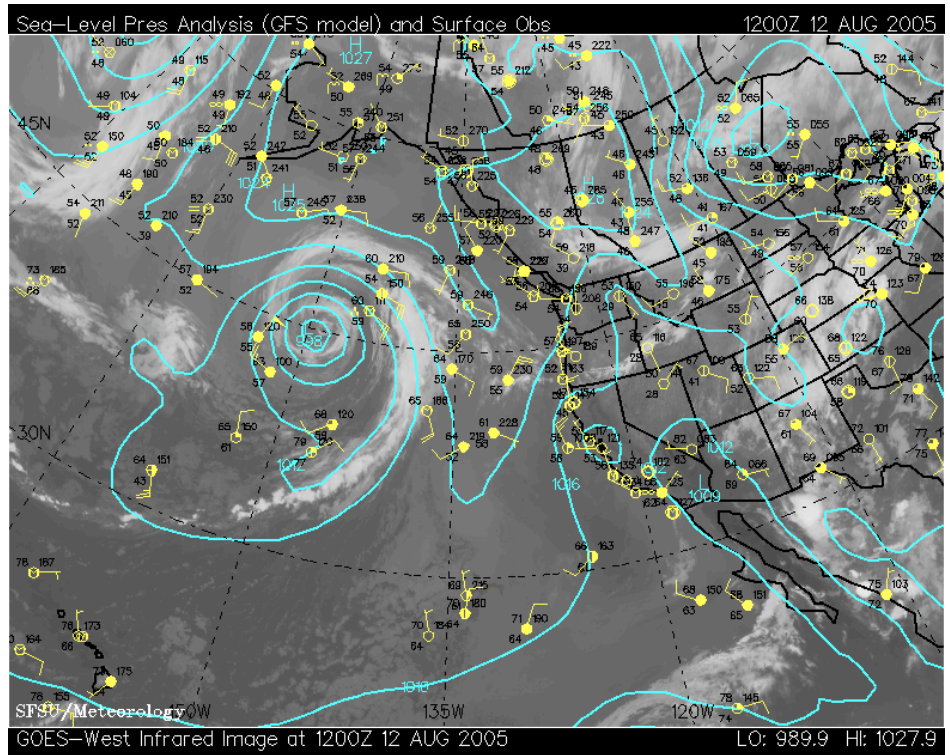


IMAGE: [HTTP://SQUALL.SFSU.EDU/GIF/SATHTS\\_PAC\\_SND\\_00.GIF](http://squall.sfsu.edu/gif/sathts_pac_snd_00.gif)

## Weather Skills for Avalanche Workers

Introductory Weather Skills: 2 days

Advanced Weather Skills: 2 days

### Description

The CAA Weather Skills program will focus on fundamental weather theory essential to understanding forecasts and Internet based weather resources. Taught by leading forecasters in Canada this program is designed for anyone interested in knowing more about weather and its interaction in mountainous regions. Skills and knowledge will be taught in the introductory course to provide the base of knowledge essential for the Advanced Weather Skills course that will focus on how to localize large-scale regional forecasts to make them more meaningful in an avalanche operation.

### Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

This course has been requested by numerous CAA members since a similar program ran in 1996 by Environment Canada for avalanche workers. The courses are taught by current weather practitioners and, while being technical in nature, focus on real skills with a minimum of technical jargon and mathematics. These courses are ideal for anyone interested in learning more about the specifics of weather forecasting and about the common weather related tools on the internet.

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for the introductory course. Participation on the Intro course is highly recommended for the Advanced course.



canadianavalancheassociation



The Canadian Avalanche Association Industry Training Program (ITP) is a fully bonded and provincially licensed post-secondary educational institution offering technical training and certification courses in B.C., Alberta and Quebec. CAA ITP courses are recognized by industry, guide training organizations and government agencies. They are regarded as some of the best professional level training for avalanche workers internationally. Courses are held throughout the winter across Canada. Contact the CAA today to find out more and enroll. Minimum age is 19.

# Program Goals (Intro & Advanced)

Understand the basics of how weather works with a focus on B.C.

Understand various text based weather forecasts, products and tools

Understand the basics of weather forecasting techniques

Understand the fundamentals of mountain meteorology

Use and interpret meteorological computer models

Explore and use valuable internet based weather resources

Explore significant meteorological patterns as they apply to mountain weather

Study past weather scenarios that produced significant avalanche hazard

## Introductory Weather Skills

This introductory course is the first of a series of two, 2-day seminars that will focus on fundamental weather theory essential to understanding basic forecasts and Internet based weather resources. Taught by leading forecasters in Canada this course is designed for anyone interested in knowing more about weather and its interaction in mountainous regions. Skills and knowledge will be taught to provide the base of knowledge essential for the Weather Skills Level 2 course that will focus on how to localize large-scale regional forecasts to make them more meaningful in an avalanche operation.

Students will be introduced to the basic principals of weather and meteorology. No formulas, no technical jargon. A fundamental understanding of how the weather works will be taught to students. Students will look at what is available in the public domain both as related to forecast products and graphical representations. How to use and interpret satellite imagery and radar will be covered. Students will look at what tools weather forecasters use and explore the methodology of how to produce a forecast and to localize it to interior BC. Videos, constructive exercises and daily weather briefings will be used to enhance the learning experience. There will be ample group discussion and daily work in a computer lab.

**Prerequisites:** There are no prerequisites for the introductory course

## Advanced Weather Skills

The advanced weather course is the second of the two, 2-day seminars run by the CAA on weather skills for avalanche workers. This course is open to those students who have completed the Introductory Weather Course or who have a very strong understanding and/or background in weather and meteorology already.

With this course students will examine slightly more complicated meteorological principals but still no mathematical formulas. They will take a deeper look at the weather forecast process, frontal structure and weather dynamics. A greater effort will be made to localize the topics to the mountain areas and how the various atmospheric conditions can affect the avalanche hazard. We will introduce various computerized products that are available on the Internet and how they can be used to assess the weather affecting avalanche hazard. We will study several weather scenarios from recent years and suggest what avalanche weather signals were indicated. The current weather pattern will be analyzed and discussed. We will look in detail at recent weather avalanche forecasts and discuss the wording and intent of each forecast. There will be ample group discussion and daily work in a computer lab.

**Prerequisites:** The Introductory Weather Skills course or equivalent experience and/or training.

## Course Design & Materials

Students will be engaged in an open and collaborative learning environment. Instructors will strive to teach the complex world of weather forecasting in a nontechnical nature focusing on real skills. Each day will be comprised of morning lectures followed by afternoon computer lab work. Some homework may be required.

There will be course handouts provided to each student at the course. There are no pre-course readings but familiarizing yourself with the CAA's weather links page is recommended.

## Calendar & Tuition

### Introductory Weather Skills

Oct 30/31, 2005  
\$300

### Advanced Weather Skills

Nov 1/2, 2005  
\$300

### Location

The weather skills courses will be run out of the Okanagan University College Revelstoke Campus.

**REGISTER ONLINE  
STARTING SEPTEMBER  
6, 2005**

### International Students

International students are subject to a 10% international student fee.

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