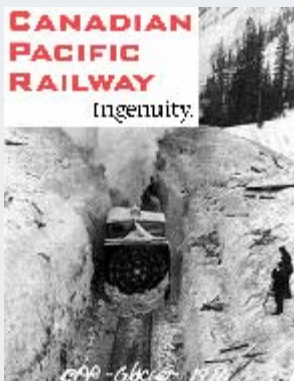




MEC is the presenting partner of the Canadian Avalanche Centre Avalanche Skills Training programs



Avalanche Awareness Days are presented by Canadian Pacific Railway

Important Announcement

Avalanche Awareness Days is coming!

This year events will take place in more than 30 communities across western Canada and beyond. Mark the dates January 12th, 13th and 14th on your calendar; our theme this year is the **Avaluator**. Presenting this important trip planning and slope selection tool to the public is our recommended focus for all events. Of course, we also want to highlight the need for introductory avalanche safety training. Effective use of the Avaluator tool requires that students be educated at the Avalanche Skills Training level 1 standard.

AAD offers the perfect opportunity for AST providers to interact with potential clients. At ski resorts, snowmobile clubs, in National Parks and elsewhere, AAD will be introducing the public to the need for avalanche skills training. Volunteering to be part of AAD activities will put AST providers directly in contact with potential students.

Here are some ideas of how you can participate.

- Help us network by sending out a few emails, or even forwarding this one to interested parties such as community groups, chamber of commerce, clubs, outdoor programs at schools. It's as simple as that!
- Contact the organizer of the event in your local area. To find out who this is, refer to the CAC website under:
avalanche.ca → CAC → Knowledge Centre → AAD → Venues
- Contact the editor and write an article for a local newspaper on avalanche safety, or avalanche skills training opportunities.
- Take out an add in a local paper listing your courses, and mention AAD dates and locations near you.
- Consider speaking at a local school about avalanche safety. We see Friday, January 12 as a great day to bring safety messages to youth in schools.
- Rate some terrain and donate the work to the CAC for posting on the web. For terrain rating process and procedures go to:
avalanche.ca → CAC → Bulletins → Avaluator info → How to rate terrain (<http://www.avalanche.ca/default.aspx?DN=646,428,4,558,3,Documents>). We will be happy to provide public recognition of contributors – a good marketing tool.
- Become an event organizer in your local community; it doesn't have to be elaborate. Contact Janis at programservices@avalanche.ca.

CAC – AST Initiatives

Student Survey

This year represents a hugely important opportunity to collect information from AST students. With the introduction of the Avaluator as a key component of introductory avalanche education we are changing the face of avalanche safety.

Evaluation is a crucial part in the development of any new tool. Since it will take years to see statistically significant changes in avalanche accidents, a variety of different approaches are used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Avaluator. One of these is to examine the choices of students both pre- and post-course when presented with avalanche-safety exercises.

AST instructors interested in collecting student information are asked to consult the ADFAR website

<http://www.avisualanche.ca/adfar2/evaluation.html>. Surveys must be ordered through Pascal Haegli at avalanche@sfu.ca.

The CAC and MEC are happy to support the collection of student survey data through the renewal of our student survey program from last year. The first 50 instructors submitting completed surveys will receive a MEC fleece jacket. Instructors should note that in order to be eligible to receive their fleece they must notify Karen Dubé at kdube@avalanche.ca upon submitting their completed surveys.

AST Instructor Lists – where would you like to be listed?

Instructor contact information is available to the public on the CAC website at avalanche.ca → CAC → Training → Avalanche Skills Training → AST Instructors

Whenever the public requests information about AST courses, we direct them to find a Provider in their location by looking through the AST Instructor lists.

Please take some time to review your contact information on the lists by course area. If you would like your contact information added or removed from a course area, or if you find errors in your contact information, please email with exact details at kdube@avalanche.ca.

If you do not find your contact information on any of the AST Instructor Lists this is because:

1. You have not yet signed the 2 AST Agreements for the 2006/7 season and/or
2. Your CAA Membership is not up to date:
 - Affiliate Membership must be upgraded to Active in order for you to instruct AST Level 1 courses.
 - Professional Membership dues outstanding or membership information incomplete.

For CAA membership information, contact Audrey at audrey@avalanche.ca.

For AST Agreements, go to avalanche.ca → Members Only → AST Provider → AST Information, or email Karen at kdube@avalanche.ca.

AST Course Listing

A great new tool available on the CAC website will allow AST course providers to list their courses online! To see how it works visit avalanche.ca → CAC → Training → Avalanche Skills Training → AST Course List

Or see: <http://www.avalanche.ca/default.aspx?DN=429,579,558,3,Documents>

To register a course you will have to log on to the members only site on the home page of the CAC (click on the CAC logo at the top of any page to be taken there). If you have forgotten your password you can call Karen Dubé at 250 837 2141 x233 or send an email to kdube@avalanche.ca.

Click on Submit a Course. Next, click Add New Course at the top of the page. Fill in the blanks and remember to click Submit Record at the bottom of the page.

Once you submit a course the details are verified by Karen before being posted to the web, so it may be the next business day before your course appears online.

We hope AST providers will find this new service useful for advertising their courses.

AST Provider materials FYI:

As you know, there have been curriculum changes to the AST Programs with the introduction of the Avaluator and ATES Terrain Rating scale. Please review the material requirements below and also see the optional material available for purchase from CAC.

Required Material

Instructor Manuals

- **Instructor Manual** (1/2 price – will be rewritten for 2007/8).
- **Avaluator Insert for Instructor Manual** – includes curriculum changes to several Field Sessions and Lesson plans re: the Avaluator and terrain rating updates with ATES.

Student Manuals

- **Avaluator** – for each AST Level 1 student. Strongly recommended for Level 2 students who have not yet familiar with the Avaluator.
- One of the **Backcountry Avalanche Awareness** series for each AST Level 1 student (skiing, freeriding, or sledding).
- For AST Level 2 students, the **Advanced Student Manual** is required.

Other

- **Student Release Forms** – required for all students. Old student release forms are invalid. Please use 2006/7 forms. We will replace old forms at no cost – please mail them in to us.

Optional Material

CDs

- AST Slides and Avaluator Supplement in PowerPoint format - \$100
- Avaluator Supplement in PowerPoint format - \$10
- RAC Overhead Transparencies in PowerPoint and pdf (not yet updated to AST) - \$100
- ASARC Fracture Characteristics (pops and drops) - \$10

- BCA – Take Charge - \$10
- Avalanche First Response Training – Online Learning - \$36

DVDs

- Intro to Avalanche Awareness - \$10
- Know Before You Go - \$10
- Time is Life - \$40.50

Other

- RAC Overhead Transparencies (not yet updated to AST) - \$170
- RAC 35mm Slides (not yet updated to AST) - \$125
- AST Certificates – no charge.

The AST Price List / Order Form 2006/7 is available at avalanche.ca → CAC → Members Only → AST Providers → AST Information → AST Price List/Order Form 2006/7. Please fax order forms to us at 250-837-4624.

Please note:

Please order
Avaluators soon as
demand appears to
be outstripping
supply.

Ordering materials over the holidays

The CAC will be unable to ship order between December 23 and January 2. If you absolutely need an order filled for a course over the holidays please fax it in by Wednesday afternoon (December 20th) at the latest.

BAW Thank - yous

The 3 BAW sessions in Canmore, Nelson, and Whistler this fall provided the CAC with an excellent opportunity to introduce the Avaluator™ to novice and expert backcountry winter enthusiasts alike. It takes a lot of work to organize, advertise, and host an event such as the BAW and the CAC wants to thank those who volunteered their time to help out with the series. Our heartfelt thanks to:

Nadine Nesbitt	Mitch Sulkers	Brian Jones
Gwen Milley	Monica Nissen	Julian Geraet
Adrian Geraet	Peter Wood	Graeme Marshall
Wren McElroy	Grant Statham	Mary Jane Pederson
John Buffery	Marc Ledwidge	Susan Hairsine
Chris Stethem	Larry Stanier	Rowan Harper
Gord Ritchie	Deb Ritchie	Janice Sanseverino

Canadian Ski Patrol Crew from Calgary

CAA - CPD AST Seminar Feedback

The CAA has received very positive feedback from folks who attended the AST Instructor sessions that coincided with the BAW workshops. Participants received an Avaluator™ and instruction on how to incorporate this new decision tool into their AST courses. The CAA hope to offer a similar CPD workshop for AST Instructors next fall.