

# SKi patrol - Mountain Travel - getting around safely

Instructor Guide

## Safety Talk Overview:

**What & Why?** Safety Talks are a method to refresh an employee’s knowledge and skills, maintain their interest in safety and illustrate the organization’s commitment to creating a healthy & safe work environment.

**Who & When?** Generally, these Safety Talk meetings are led by a supervisor, member of the JHSC, or Worker H&S Representative and should be mandatory for all crew members to attend. The content should be focused on a single topic. Safety Talks can be performed on a weekly basis or before the start of a new scope of work and should be about 15 minutes in duration.

go2HR developed this safety talk template for employers to customize and use for any topic in their organization. The Participant Handout should include information that you hope the worker will retain from the safety talk content and should be handed out during the safety talk for workers to reference later. Feel free to use it at your discretion.

**Ski Patrol - Mountain Travel - Getting Around Safely**

The goal is to reduce the number of incidents with workers being injured while patrolling the mountain. Although many may consider skiing and riding injuries among patrollers to be an inherent risk of the job, analysis of historical records in regards to these injuries suggest that they can be reduced in number and severity, and can possibly be eliminated.

**Safety Talk Outline (using the handout below):**

- Preventative Measures

- Discussion Questions

**Additional Resources:**

- [go2HR Ski Areas](https://www.go2hr.ca/health-safety/ski-areas)

## Topic Overview:

## 

## Safety Talk Facilitator Guidance

🞏 **Introduce** the topic and why it’s important

🞏 **Discuss** the associated hazards and likely incidents

🞏 **Tour** the work zone identifying hazardous areas

🞏 **Distribute** the Participant Handout

🞏 **Use** the info above to guide the discussion

🞏 **Document** the talk using the Safety Talk Record

🞏 **Explain** what controls are used to minimize the risks

🞏 **Remind** employees about applicable PPE usage

🞏 **Emphasize** the importance of safe work procedures

🞏 **Ask questions** to generate group discussion

🞏 **Answer any questions** or concerns they might have

🞏 **Set a good example** by working safely at all time

# Ski patrol- mountain travel- getting around safely

Safety Talk Record

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Discussion Leader:** | **Date:** |
| **Department:** | Time: |

### Attendees (Please print your name and sign beside it. If you are a contractor, also include your company name):

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### Near miss/incidents and investigations reviewed: ☐ None this month

### Any questions or concerns from workers?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action needed:** | **Person responsible:** | **Due date:** | **Completed date:** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Supervisor/Manager print name & sign:** | **Date:** |

### Reviewed by:

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**Preventative Measures**

Follow these preventative measures to safeguard yourself and ensure safe operations in mountainous terrain:

**Route Selection and Safety Measures**

- Use designated routes suitable for your ability level

- Ski or board in a controlled manner and avoid attempting new skills during work hours

- Consider taking lessons to enhance your skiing ability

- Be cautious of vehicle traffic, such as snowmobiles and snowcats

- Utilize headlamps for visibility during early morning or late runs

**Equipment and Conditions Awareness**

- Use modern, well-maintained ski or snowboard equipment

- Obtain detailed reports on snow conditions before skiing

- Adapt skiing behavior to match visibility, snow coverage, and quality

- Maintain contact with snowmaking and grooming crews

- Communicate hazardous snow conditions to fellow patrollers

**Health and Wellness Management**

- Prioritize personal health and fitness for the job

- Take regular breaks and rest as needed, especially in extreme weather

- Wear proper personal protective equipment, including well-fitted footwear and eye protection

- Be cautious during pre-season conditions and gradually build up stamina

**Work-Specific Precautions**

- Refrain from performing freestyle maneuvers while on duty

- Follow instructions regarding winch cats and designated routes

- Avoid venturing off designated routes or into off-limits areas

- Do not carry excess gear or loads beyond your capacity

- Maintain a safe speed when attending to injured guests

**Discussion Questions**

- What are some common challenges faced by ski patrollers in ensuring safety on the slopes at our site, and how can they be effectively addressed?

- What are some common challenges you face in communicating and coordinating with other ski patrol teams, and how do you overcome these obstacles to ensure a cohesive response to emergencies?

- Can you share any memorable experiences or lessons learned from your time patrolling the slopes?

- What are some considerations you consider when assessing snow conditions and determining the safety of runs?

Participant Handout

### For more information on this topic or if you have questions, contact: