

1) SOMEONE TAKES CHARGE – Either selected by group or most capable surviving individual and goes through the following steps.

2) Evaluation - After the event, can the remaining members of the group maintain their present location, safely :

a) NO and Danger cannot be mitigated - Move as many surviving members as possible to a safe location, develop a rescue plan, (this may simply involve calling for or sending for help), then evacuate the surviving members out of the area or develop shelter and warmth for the group, if you cannot evacuate. – **Do not re-enter incident site.**

b) NO, but the Danger can be mitigated – Move group to a safe location until danger is mitigated (e.g. thunderstorm passes, rockfall stops, animal moves away), then develop and implement a Rescue Plan.

c) YES – Group can safely maintain its present location. Develop and implement a Rescue Plan

3) Rescue plan – once in a safe location

a) Re- evaluate situation – Check your group. Confirm how many are missing or injured. Provide first aid to the evacuated members. Look for fall back positions in case of further events. (Rockfall, avalanche, lightning, forest fire, animal attack). Post a spotter, if required.

b) Develop and communicate the rescue plan (search and/or rescue strategies, fall back locations, danger areas) and assign duties (First Aiders, Searchers, Spotters, Shovelers, Rope handlers, Contact people for communications).

c) Contact help (see backside of sheet) – using a satellite/ cell phone or if there are people unneeded for the rescue – on foot.

d) Implement Rescue Plan. Administer First Aid.

e) Evacuate injured

i) self rescue, if group can move victims on their own to a medical centre, (monitor for shock. Stop if symptoms are noticed and treat immediately)

ii) group cannot self rescue and moves injured to a sheltered location accessible to helicopter. Administers first aid , warms and shelters victims

iii) group stays in place. Administers first aid, warms, and shelters those victims who cannot be moved

f) Group members who are not required to maintain the victims should return to their vehicles or camp and if not already done, contact emergency help. They should leave behind supplies to support rescuers who may have to stay overnight (extra clothing, fuel, food, water, matches, tarps, space blankets, etc). Make sure that group members leaving to contact help have an exact location on a map (include latitude and longitude, as this is the way the helicopter's GPS is set)

g) Group members remaining onsite should prepare shelter and supplies for themselves for an overnight stay and consider constructing a heli-landing site nearby, if one is not available.

3) LOST INDIVIDUALS

- a) If one or more individuals have separated from the group and not returned to the vehicle by a pre-agreed to time, organization of a search party should be considered. If the general vicinity of the missing party is known, send a group(s) out in the direction that the party might be expected to return. **The search party should return to the vehicle at a predetermined time. The search party should not stay out after dark and expose themselves to harm, if the missing party is not found. If party is found injured, refer to Emergency Event guidelines.**
- b) If the search is unsuccessful, then a member shall remain with a vehicle at the trailhead overnight. Other members shall proceed to the nearest telephone and contact the Emergency Contacts listed above to alert them to the emergency and get them to activate the local branch of SEARCH AND RESCUE. A call should also be made to the missing hiker's next of kin to notify them of the situation. A search may not be started until first light the following morning.
- c) Let the SEARCH AND RESCUE emergency personnel control the situation.

4) EMERGENCY CONTACTS

If you have a cell or satellite phone or have reached a land line after being sent for help on foot, here are the Emergency contact numbers. In all cases ask for **Search & Rescue** to be mobilized.

- a) RCMP – Nelson –1-250-352-2156, Castlegar –1- 250-265-7721, Trail – 1-250-364-2566
- b) RCMP – for satellite phones only – 1-250-491-4303
- c) BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) – 1-250-374-5937
- d) **9-1-1** – ask for RCMP OR BCAS, the nearest local detachment.(will **not** work on sat phones)
- If unable to reach a,b,c or d above, try these numbers (you may be billed for the rescue)**
- e) Search & Rescue – Nelson – 250-352-3339 or 250-505-7890, Castlegar – 250-365-0434 or
- f) Prov. Emergency Program -1-800-663-3456
- g) Helicopter – Nelson – 250-352-1206 or 354-8445, Castlegar – 250-365-2661 (Highland),

5) EMERGENCY INFORMATION – What you have to tell the authorities

- a)The nature of the emergency including:
- (i) the number, sex and age of the people injured or at risk (i.e. 2 males in their mid 50's)
 - (ii) the extent and cause of injuries, (i.e. broken legs from an avalanche burial)
 - (iii) the level of consciousness
 - (iv) how well they are breathing
 - (v) amount of blood loss, if any.
- b) Your name and how many are in your group,
- c) The location of the injured persons
- (i) the general location, (nearest community, river/mountain range, road or ski area)
 - (ii) map coordinates (latitude and longitude)
 - (iii)and landmarks in the vicinity (e.g. lakes, mountains, etc.)
- d) The call back number of the phone (this will be on the phone).
- e) Level of preparedness (do you have medical supplies, are you equipped to stay overnight)
- f) Describe any specialized equipment rescuers may need (ropes, crampons, snowshoes etc)
- g) How is the site accessible for rescue personnel- helicopter, road, snowmobile or on foot.