

NSP / PNWD
MTR SAFETY

NSP MTR EDUCATION

“Since its inception, the primary goal of NSP’s Mountain Travel and Rescue (MTR) Program has been to train ski patrollers in the knowledge and skills needed to serve as assets and leaders in search and rescue operations, especially those conducted in winter or in the mountain environment. The program’s highest priority is safety.”

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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

“The instructor has discretion to restrict the participation of a student in all or any part of the MTR program. For instance, the instructor may restrict participation where, in the instructor’s judgment, the student cannot complete the program objectives even with available reasonable accommodations or the student’s participation will be unsafe”

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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
2 STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND CONSISTENCY

“2. 1. MTR instructors must exercise sound mountaineering judgment in all course activities. This mandate includes but is not limited to cancelling or terminating field sessions to manage anticipated or emerging unsafe conditions.”

“4. Expanding course content significantly beyond the scope of MTR course objectives can also incur risks,”

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2.3 RISK MANAGEMENT

Liability Waivers

“All students and instructors must be properly informed of the inherent danger associated with MTR training and should be willing to accept the risk in writing.”

Participant Preparedness

“In each training session, all participants must be properly clothed for the expected weather, carry the necessary equipment, and have enough food and water for the duration of the session.”

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Liability Waivers

MTR LIABILITY RELEASE FORM

I agree I am voluntarily participating in this EVENT/TRAINING. I understand that the EVENT/TRAINING may involve extensive field work on first aid scenarios, skiing, and toboggan handling along with other activities which ski patrollers encounter in their duties of patrolling a ski area. I realize there are inherent risks in this type of activity including changing weather conditions, changing snow surface conditions, ice, bare spots, rocks, stumps, trees and the possibility of collisions with manmade and natural objects or other skiers and such activity can be dangerous and can result in serious injury or death. I knowingly assume the risk of participation and understand I can withdraw from this EVENT/TRAINING at any time. I understand that by participating in this EVENT/TRAINING I may also encounter additional risks not inherent to a normal participant to the sport of skiing. I agree to personally assume all of these risks. I also agree that I will rely solely on my own judgment regarding my personal safety and ability with regard to the terrain, circumstances and conditions in which I may be placed upon and asked to demonstrate or perform to accomplish the tasks involved in EVENT/TRAINING, and that I will decline to perform any activities if I believe I am placing myself in an unsafe situation or subject to possible injury or death if I proceeded.

As a requirement of this EVENT/TRAINING, I acknowledge that I agree to waive any right I might have to file a lawsuit for any injury or death resulting from my participation in this EVENT/TRAINING and I hereby remise, release, and forever discharge the ski area hosting the event, the National Ski Patrol System, Incorporated and its members, both individually and jointly, and I agree that no one else may file a lawsuit in my name related to my participation in this EVENT/TRAINING. If any part of this Release shall be determined to be unenforceable, all other parts shall be given full force and effect.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Participant Name: (printed) _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

ADDENDUM TO RELEASE

The above Participant is less than 18 years of age; the undersigned parent or guardian hereby consents to the above Participant participating in the EVENT/TRAINING and signs this Release on behalf of the Participant.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: (printed) _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Not part of Release and for record keeping purposes only.

To be completed by instructor:

Date: _____

Event/Training: _____

Location: _____

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Non-NSP Instructors

“All NSP MTR courses must have an NSP-certified MTR instructor as IOR and an NSP-recognized Instructor Trainer (IT) as a course reviewer. An NSP-certified MTR instructor must be present at every MTR course activity. Non-NSP instructors, including NSP instructor trainees and non-members who possess special expertise, may provide valuable contributions to MTR training.”

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2.4 SAFETY GUIDELINES

MTR TRAILHEAD LOG[illegible]

Trailhead Protocols

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Terrain Guidelines.

Terrain Type	Slope Angle
Flat	0°-15°
Low Angle	15°-30°
Steep Angle	30°-60°
High Angle	≥-60°

“All instruction in NSP MTR courses—even in skills that may be also useful in high-angle terrain—must take place on flat, low-angle, or steep-angle terrain.”

Rock fall or unstable footing

“IORs should select training sites where rock fall is not a significant issue and where footing is stable.”

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Avalanches:

“Do not expose instructors or students to avalanche hazards. For purposes of the MTR curriculum, avalanche terrain is any terrain within 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) of snow-covered slopes steeper than 25 degrees”

Environmental emergencies

“IORs and other instructors must continually monitor participants for signs of hypothermia, frostbite, altitude illness, and heat-related emergencies.”

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Lightning

“IORs and other instructors must insist on safe practices if there is a threat of lightning.”

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Training Site Logistics

Whenever possible, outdoor training sites should be located in areas where:

- **“A terrain evaluation confirms that the training area is safe when the activity is conducted.**
- **Participants can be evacuated to motor vehicles in case a problem arises.**
- **Instructors have access to mobile telephone coverage or radio contact with emergency services.**
- **In field exercises involving more than four people or the potential for the group to split into subgroups, it is a good idea for instructors to have portable radios”**

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Snow Shelter Construction

“Snow caves, snow trenches, quinzees, and igloos must be constructed on terrain that is safe and conducive to their construction.”

Fire and Ventilation Hazards

“It is not safe to use cook stoves or any other type of open flame in tents or other shelters.”

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Water Hazards

“To prevent water-borne illnesses, all water should be treated by a reliable purification method before using.”

Vehicle use

“Use of any vehicle should follow state and local laws and guidelines.”

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Group Management

“Any student who does not want to participate in any portion of the training should not be pressured in any way to do so.”