❄ AIARE
Avalanche Research + Education

AVALANCHE
RESCUE CHECKLIST

Name: _____ **Time:** _____

Assess Safety
- ☐ Rescuer verbalized assessing exposure to a second avalanche
- ☐ Rescuer defined a safe location for spotters and survivors

Choose a Leader
- ☐ Rescuer verbalized assigning a leader or took charge and delegated tasks

Head Count
- ☐ Rescuer asked for and communicated number of victims to rescue party
- ☐ (Multiple Burial) Rescuer verbalized basic strategy for multiple victims

Call for Help
- ☐ Rescuer verbalized when to call for help, selected method of communication, and communicated appropriate information (at a minimum location and that an avalanche involvement has occurred)

SWITCH ALL TRANSCEIVERS TO SEARCH MODE
- ☐ Rescuer asked group to turn off electronic devices and turn transceivers to search mode

DETERMINE WHERE TO SEARCH
- ☐ Rescuer determined where to begin searching based on point last seen
- ☐ Rescuer communicated search strategy based on resources, number of burials, terrain features present, location of debris, etc.

Comments on Initial Avalanche Response:

Search for Signal & Visual Clues
- ☐ Rescuer used a pattern (not greater than 40 m search strips) appropriate to mode and direction of travel to search debris, entering from the side or the toe, while moving quickly
- ☐ Rescuer looked for visual clues (or delegated the task) while searching for a signal

Yell to Others When Finding Clue or Signal
- ☐ Rescuer pulled clues out of the snow and left it on the snow surface
- ☐ Rescuer left a marker on the snow when beginning to follow a signal
- ☐ Rescuer notified rescue party when finding visual clues or a signal
- ☐ Rescuer called for a second searcher to assemble probe (and shovel)

Follow Signal to (1st) Burial Area
- ☐ Rescuer slowed down while approaching 10 m ensuring an assistant with probe accompanied search
- ☐ Rescuer communicated to allocate all team resources (including prober) at burial site
- ☐ Rescuer placed a marker on the snow or removed skis/board to visualize trajectory at 5 m
- ☐ Rescuer moved slowly and directed assistant to effectively probe ahead

Comments on Signal and Visual Clues Search:

Locate Burial with Transceiver
- ☐ Rescuer used an appropriate and efficient method (bracketing and/or probing in front of searching transceiver) to locate the closest signal
- ☐ Rescuer kept transceiver as close to the snow surface as possible while locating the closest signal
- ☐ Rescuer maintained consistent transceiver orientation while locating the closest signal
- ☐ Rescuer moves slowly enough to allow their transceiver to correctly process signals

Comments on Transceiver Search:

Locate Burial with Probe
- ☐ Rescuer used a consistent probing method (on a line or pinpointing with square or spiral pattern) with spacing no more than 25 cm
- ☐ Rescuer probed perpendicular to the debris surface
- ☐ Rescuer left probe in place on probe strike

Shovel Fast and Effectively
- ☐ Rescuer used probe to identify and verbalize depth of burial
- ☐ Rescuer moved appropriate distance downhill from probe to begin shoveling
- ☐ Rescuer used appropriate shoveling configuration based on number of available rescuers
- ☐ Rescuer dug a ramp towards the victim throwing snow far away
- ☐ Rescuer changed shovelers often (if possible)
- ☐ Rescuer shoveled carefully when nearing the victim

Comments on Probing and Shoveling:

(Multiple Burial) Locate 2nd Burial With Transceiver
- ☐ Rescuer switched 1st buried transceiver to search
- ☐ Rescuer intentionally moved away from 1st burial towards marked point of multiple transceiver signals.
- ☐ Rescuer uses repeatable method to detect 2nd transceiver signal (marking, micro-strip, 3-circle, etc) if needed.
- ☐ Rescuer repeated steps from "Follow signal to burial area" through "Shovel fast and effectively" for 2nd burial

Comments on Locating and Extracting 2nd Burial:

Patient Care
- ☐ Rescuer verbalized clearing patient airway and assessing need for CPR
- ☐ Rescuer defined safe location to move patient and rescuers
- ☐ Rescuer formulated evacuation plan based on available resources

Call for Help
- ☐ If complete call for help was not made initially, rescuer revisited call for help, selected method of communication, and communicated appropriate information

If a Helicopter Comes to Your Aid
- ☐ Rescuer verbalized securing loose items and waiting for helicopter to land and rescuer to come to them

Comments on Post-Extraction: