

Education Report 2008/09 Ski Year

CSPS Training & Certification

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This was my third year coordinating the recertification of returning patrollers and organizing the CSPS first aid training and certification for the new patrollers. The process has become routine as I have become familiar and as our numbers certifying old and new have stabilized. We had a combined total of 31 patrollers certified for action this year, down from 32 last year.

This year's recertification training event was another big success due to dedication of the instructor/examiners and all the willing and compromising patrollers that came out. I would especially like to thank the two Don's (Wilson and White) Tim Sellars, Erik Simanis, Julie Cossette and Steve Biggin-Pound who helped by either instructing or examining or both AND Denise Norman who ran the CPR certification and recertification. I simply could have not pulled it off without you. Thanks to you all.

1. Instructor Training (September 20 & 21)

This was held prior to the recertification weekend, where patrollers were certified as Instructor/Examiners by our Instructor Trainers Tim Sellars and Don Wilson. This year's new instructors were Julie Cossette, Steve Biggin-Pound, Don White and Jeff Boehmer. Everyone helped divide up the first aid instruction sections and completed their own recertification as well.

2. Recertification of Returning Patrollers (September 26 to 28)

Twenty six patrollers were recertified this year, the majority of them on the recertification weekend. This year we added the Friday for the returnees' to practice skills prior to testing, it seemed to help. The stragglers completed during the new patroller training.

It is CSPS policy that returnees attempt the written exam so that if they fail they can join the new patrollers. This year we followed that policy and the testing to 100% on the written exam. The recertification weekend is always a busy weekend, but it was great to be able to recertify so many people at once. Everyone's efforts to attend were appreciated.

Standing Recommendations for every year:

- ✓ Recertify and organize all the instructor/examiners prior to recert;
- ✓ Get as many returning patrollers as possible to recertify at once;
- ✓ Insure a quiet, separate space is available for exam writing from testing (in French and English);
- ✓ Covering all essential skills (i.e. spinals, shock, head injuries, etc...) prior to examination;
- ✓ Include returning patrollers in the Mass Casualty Event.

3. First-Aid Training & Certification of New Patrollers (Oct 1 to Nov 1)

This year we had five new great additions to the patrol, which were trained and certified. Everyone in the group was motivated, asked lots of questions, studied and practiced at home when necessary. The course is difficult and long, with a lot of theory to cover and practical skills to acquire. I was very pleased with everybody's level of understanding and skills at the end of the class. The success of the course is a reflection of the motivation of the rookies, and of the time many patrollers volunteered to either teach or help with classes.

Standing Recommendations for next year:

- ✓ Invite returning patrollers to help with the teaching and skill demonstration;
- ✓ Provide experiential learning: less theory, more hands on exercises, followed with debriefing and discussion;
- ✓ Strive for consistent level of presentations and materials;
- ✓ Alternate the Mass Causality Event between Mt. McIntyre and Mt. Sima.

4. Mass Causality Event (Nov 1)

We included in the training a Mass Casualty Event which was held at Mt. Sima this year. This year we were able to integrate the junior patrollers as the injured, invited the return patrollers and pro patrollers to support and participate with the new patrollers. Although quite a ways along in her pregnancy, Renee Mills was able to act as a make-up artist and soon to be mother. Scenarios followed the colours of triage with a faked death to minor cuts and scrapes. I would like to thank all that volunteered their fantastic acting abilities and time to make the event a big success. I can't wait until next year to organize the chaos.

5. Training and Certifying for Future Instructors

It is mandatory for all zones to implement the CSPS Instructor Certification Program. This is an essential step towards national recognition of the CSPS First Aid Training as an official equivalent to other similar First Aid courses. There are 3 levels of certification: assistant-instructors (16hr course), instructors (16hr course), and instructor trainers (16hr course). All must recertify every 3 years, do a minimum number of teaching hours every year, and attend yearly updates. This requirement also applies to on-hill instructors.

If anyone is interested in instructing, please contact me.

In closing, thank you all.

Jeff Boehmer