

All students taking the course will be required to provide their own safety helmet, safety glasses, leather work gloves, appropriate safety footwear, clothing adequate for the environment and material for taking notes.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Scheduling Information

For open enrollment Ski Lift Rescue Operations course visit www.wildernesseri.com.

To set up a course or if you have a question contact -
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Ski Lift Rescue Operations Course



The Rescue Discipline

Ski lift emergency responses are the highest hazard responses (next to avalanches) a ski patroller will need to respond to and is one of the least addressed areas of training that a ski patroller receives. To respond to these types of emergencies, a patroller needs to be trained in rope rescue, fall protection, lockout/tagout procedures and personal escape procedures. Unfortunately there has been limited formal training in this area of response for ski patrollers.

All too often a ski patrol candidate receives a maximum of 4 hours of training (usually 2 hours) of ski lift evacuation training during their candidate year. These same ski patrollers will be expected to perform flawlessly years later when the skills are needed. These skills are covered during fall refreshers, when the weather is considerably nicer than the weather during the ski season. These fall refreshers tend to be a complete relearning of the lift rescue procedures rather than a refresher. These skills are not reviewed again until the following year's refresher.

The National Ski Area Association and the National Ski Patrol have written books on this topic; however, there have been very few hands on- formal training programs available to address these types

of responses. Due to the high hazard nature of this training and response very few organizations have provided formal training programs to train patrollers. The Wilderness Emergency Response Institute, LLC has recognized this downfall in emergency response training and has addressed the problem in the class Ski Lift Rescue Operations.

The Course

A group of Emergency Services rope rescue instructors, some of which are Pro Ski Patrollers and Patrol Directors, created the Ski Lift Rescue Operations Course. The course is a 16 hour class which contains 4 hours of lecture (covering Applicable Standards, Lock Out/ Tagout procedures, Ski Lift types and parts, Creating and managing Lift Evacuation plans and procedures and entanglement and entrapment problems), 4 hours of hands on skill stations (knots, operations of rope rescue equipment, haul systems and anchor systems) and 8 hours of hands on skills involving actual ski lifts (personal evacuation techniques, ascending ropes, ascending lift towers, assisted evacuation techniques and technical evacuation techniques). The Patrollers will be exposed to some of the most modern lift rescue equipment from individuals who have extensive experience and training in ski lift

rescue. The participants will also see the downfalls of some of the equipment used in the past by ski patrols and resorts.

General Information

Ski Resort insurance companies place great emphasis on ski lift evacuation training and equipment. In addition, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has created extensive standards on Ariel Lifts (B-77). This class helps a resort achieve this level of training and meet B-77. All students who successfully complete the class will receive a certificate of completion. In addition to the certificates, a ski resort's insurance company can call and talk with the course instructor to verify training curriculum.

This class is brought right to your resort and your Patrollers are trained in the environment and with the lift that they may need to respond to in the future. To host a course, a Patrol needs to assure that a minimum of 10 students attend the class and a maximum of 30. The Patrols and Resorts are required to provide a classroom site; lifts for the practical and certain lift rescue equipment (contact Wilderness Emergency Response Institute, LLC for a list of equipment that a Patrol will be required to provide as well as course rates).