

AIARE Instructor Training and Continued Professional Development

- All potential instructors wishing to teach the AIARE Level 1 and/or Level 2 curriculum are required to *attend a Level 1 Instructor Training Course (ITC) prior to instructing* the AIARE Level 1 course and a Level 2 ITC prior to teaching the Level 2 course. AIARE Level 3 instructor/examiners are individually recommended and trained; and are required to audit a Level 3 course prior to being contracted as an instructor.
- Existing AIARE instructors are required to *attend one Instructor Refresher Course (IRC) every three year and* to maintain familiarity and currency with the curriculum and teaching techniques. Alternatively one or more instructors can request an AIARE Peer Review in lieu of the IRC.
- Each year AIARE instructors are encouraged to *maintain professional standards and knowledge of the avalanche profession* through a process described as Continued Professional Development (CPD). The recommendations are outlined below.

Instructor Training Course (ITC for new AIARE level 1 or 2 instructors)

The AIARE Instructor Training Course is a three-day seminar and is specific to the Level 1 or Level 2 course. The learning outcomes include introducing the recommended lesson plans and teaching materials. The forum offers examples of how experienced instructors include their own experience and materials to create successful sessions. Participants review indoor and outdoor teaching techniques and learn to deal with groups, the environment and develop risk management procedures.

The ITC provides an open forum for professional development and topics relevant to educators. Completion of the ITC fulfills one step in becoming an AIARE qualified instructor. It's important to note that you may not be qualified as a Course Leader or Course Instructor following an ITC. All AIARE courses must have a qualified "Course Leader" on the course. Additional instructional staff are considered "Course Instructors." Check here for Course Leader and Course Instructor qualifications. Participants should arrive familiar with the AIARE courses and ready to contribute. Peer presentations will be assigned prior to the course.

Instructor Refresher Course (IRC for existing AIARE instructors)

The IRC is a 1-day course that provides instructors with the opportunity to refresh and review the updates to the curriculum and to exchange information on what makes their courses successful.

AIARE instructors are required to attend an IRC every 3 years (after completion of the ITC) to stay listed as a qualified AIARE instructor. The goal is to keep AIARE instructors current and familiar with an evolving curriculum. The IRC also provides for an information exchange between instructors, providers, and AIARE administration. Participants arrive ready to discuss and share ideas on improving the curriculum. These seminars may have outdoor sessions and are designed to target the interest and experience of each participant. AIARE is the process of developing the IRC for implementation for winter season 2008/09.

AIARE Peer Review

The AIARE Peer Review consists of an AIARE Education Committee (Ed Comm) member auditing an AIARE provider's course. Any provider may request a peer review. The review provides the opportunity for recommendation and feedback on presentation techniques, group management, risk management, and logistic support. The reviewer may be asked to assist with presentations as a guest lecturer. The Peer Review provides the opportunity for several instructors to fulfill the IRC requirement simultaneously, gain location specific information, and avoid combined travel expenses and time of going to an IRC. The course provider will cover expenses associated with having the course reviewed by the Ed Comm member. Course providers may additionally request an Edcomm reviewer to run a course with qualified course instructors employed by the provider.

Continued Professional Development (CPD)

AIARE instructors are encouraged to work as avalanche practitioners or ski guides during the same winters they teach AIARE courses. Instructors are encouraged to stay practiced and "up to date" each season with understanding avalanches and managing the hazard. AIARE instructors are required to participate in the avalanche community by attending one seminar or event each year- or to contribute to the avalanche community each year- in a fashion that is "outside the AIARE course framework".

AIARE instructors accept individual responsibility to undertake CPD and to ensure the currency of their knowledge, skills and technical proficiency. The suggested seminars listed below are not exclusive and the AIARE Educational Committee will accept other related work practice and events that contribute to professional development in similar ways. Each instructor is expected to keep track of the annual events and be able to substantiate participation.

Examples of CPD Contributions

Attendance at:

- International Snow and Science Workshop (ISSW)
 - 2008 event at Whistler, BC Sept 21 – 26.
- American Avalanche Association sponsored seminars
- Canadian Avalanche Association professional operations courses
- Attendance at regional events such as those that avalanche centers, universities or other educational institutions offer
- AMGA or ACMG ski or snow related courses
- Mentorship by existing AIARE course leaders/ITC trainers
- Staff training related to avalanche work

Contributions to knowledge such as;

- Avalanche education related published articles
- ISSW Posters/Oral presentations
- Committee service (example: volunteering for the AIARE EdComm)
- Development of course materials and training used within your organization

Timeline	<u>Introduction to AIARE curriculum</u>	<i>1st year after ITC</i>	<i>2nd year after ITC</i>	<u>3rd year after ITC</u>	<i>1st year after IRC</i>	<i>2nd year after IRC</i>	<u>3rd year after IRC...</u>
Annual Requirement	Instructor Training Course (ITC) -Specific to level 1 or level 2 Topics include: -AIARE course progression and links between courses -Curriculum and Lesson Plan Overview -Teaching Techniques -Field group management -Rescue technique upgrade	Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Examples: -AIARE Advanced Avalanche Seminar (3-8 hrs) -National Avalanche Center Meeting (1 day) -ISSW (6 days) -CSAW (1 day)	CPD	Instructor Refresher Course (IRC) Topics include: -Curriculum Update -Field Techniques -In-Depth Special Topic -Teaching Techniques or AIARE Peer Review	CPD	CPD	IRC or AIARE Peer Review
Time	3 days	>3 hrs	>3 hrs	1 day	>3 hrs	>3 hrs	1 day

