

POLAR TOURISM QUALIFICATION

Site Specific Snow & Ice Crack Awareness



**POLAR
TOURISM**
Guides Association
guiding guiding

DEFINITIONS:

Scope:	Outlines who the certificate is for.
Element:	Outlines the overall skill set to be taught.
Range:	The specific skills to be taught.
Prerequisites:	Current 1st Aid certificate
RCC:	Existing qualifications over and above the award. See RCC and Cross-credit matrices.

Special Notes:

- i. *It is currently beyond the scope of the PTGA to train and qualify people for the skills and experience required to access these features, make judgements regarding their suitability for tourism use or to perform a complex rescue in crevassed terrain. There are a number of international qualifications that train and examine people to this level. Companies should hire personnel with suitable external qualifications.*
- ii. *It is implicit that different stages of the polar seasons will offer different levels of risk or experience and this is understood by all members of the PTGA.*
- iii. *Organisations that train, examine and qualify people to travel/rescue in crevassed terrain include but are not limited to: US, Canada, NZ, Swiss, French Mountain Guides Associations, IFMGA Member Associations, NZOIA Level II Mountain, UK International Mountain Leader, NOLS Mountain Leader.*
- iv. *The PTGA differentiates between mountain/glacial terrain where the location and extent of crevasses is unknown and unknowable, and site specific tide-cracks, glide cracks, bergschrunds and crevasses which are **known** to exist in the same place from year to year and whose parameters (depth, width and structure) are understood and deemed to be manageable by qualified guides.*
- v. *The PTGA expects that anyone whose role includes site assessment, qualified/experienced judgement and decision making for excursions that are known to have tide-cracks, glide cracks, bergschrunds or crevasses should have higher levels of experience or qualifications and should carry appropriate equipment (probe, length of rope etc) and know how to use it.*
- vi. *Element 2 extraction does not imply someone has 'fallen' in a crack. It is an extraction awareness for someone who may have put their leg through and are unable to extract themselves.*

Site Specific Glide Crack, Tide Crack, Bergschrund and Crevasse Awareness

SCOPE:

This preventative management and awareness course for all staff involved in land and shore excursions where snow/ice glide cracks, tide cracks, bergschrunds and crevasses are known hazards at specific sites. It is a general education, hazard awareness, disclosure and other crowd control skills course and intended only for known site specific hazards and for people working under a suitably experienced or qualified guide/staff member.

Pre-requisites: Current 1st Aid Certificate

RCC: > 30 excursions logged working with these skills and features.

TEACHING ELEMENTS AND LEARNING POINTS:

Element 1 – How to identify and manage known features.

1.1 Explain glacial, snow field and sea-ice processes and features and identify common hazards with them including but not restricted to:

Range: Crevasses, bergschrunds, glide cracks and tide cracks including cracks in near-shore snow influenced by tides as well as sea ice.

1.2 Location briefing of at least three known crevassed areas, cracks or bergschrunds encountered at common landings.

Range: Antarctic Peninsula Neko Harbour, Almirante Brown, Orne Harbour, Damoy Pt, Portal Pt or create your own range for your own operation.

1.3 Explain techniques and any personal safety options used for safely locating and marking known cracks, tide cracks, bergschrunds and crevasses.

Range: protected, GPS waypoints, probing, kicking, external information.

1.4 Describe situational management techniques for marking hazards, managing and disclosing risk.

Range: clearing a visible safe zone, disclosure to clients, wands and flags, management and appropriate use of personnel, decide to not use the area.

Element 2 – How to safely extract someone from a known crack, bergschrund or crevasse without technical equipment.

2.1 Demonstrate how to secure the site.

Range: stops all movement in the area, establish safe movement area and retreat path, establish/creates safe area and solid ground to assist the extraction.

2.2 Demonstrate how to perform a non-technical extraction.

Range: Safe lifting options using other people, equipment and clothing, disclosure of action, non-injurious to the victim, improvised harness options to assist the lift, checking condition on extraction and transport to LZ or other safe zone, marks the site to share with other operators.

DATE:	REVIEWERS:
8/5/17	Graham Charles, Cam Walker, Phil Wickens, Keith Riley
22/5/17	Graham Charles
9/6/17	Harry Keys