



**POLAR
TOURISM**
Guides Association

guiding guiding

POLAR QUALIFICATION

Crevasse Awareness & Management

2022 Edition

DEFINITIONS:

- Scope:** Outlines who the certificate is for.
- Element:** Outlines the overall **skill set** to be taught.
- Range:** The **specific skills** to be taught.
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SCOPE

This preventative management and awareness course is 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 crowd control skills awareness course and intended only for known site specific hazards and for people working under a suitably experienced or qualified guide/staff member. It is intended as an awareness course only.

- Special Notes:*
- i. *(For the purposes of this document snow/ice glide cracks, tide cracks, bergschrunds and glacial crevasses are simply known as 'crevasses'.) 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 guided use or to perform a complex rescue in crevassed terrain. There are many international qualifications that train and examine people to this level. Companies should hire personnel with suitable external qualifications.*
 - ii. *Organisations that train, examine and qualify people to travel/rescue in crevassed terrain include any qualifications program that has a publicly available syllabus and performance examines candidates in crevasse travel and crevasse rescue.*
 - iii. *The PTGA differentiates between mountain/glacial terrain where the location and extent of crevasses is unknown and unknowable, and site-specific 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 by qualified or experienced guides and deemed to be manageable.*

- iv. The PTGA expects that anyone whose role includes site assessment, judgement and decision making for excursions that are known to have bergschrunds or crevasses should have higher levels of experience or qualifications and should carry appropriate equipment and know how to use it.*
- v. Element 3 extraction does not imply someone has 'fallen' in a crack. It is extraction awareness for someone who may have put their leg through and are unable to extract themselves.*

PREREQUISITES: Nil

CROSS CREDIT: Any internationally recognized qualifications that include these components to the level of the Scope or higher. See Cross Credit Matrices.

TEACHING ELEMENTS AND LEARNING POINTS:

Element 1 – How to identify known crevasses and the risks/hazards that are commonly associated with them

1.1 Explain glacial, snow field and sea-ice processes and features and identify common hazards with them.

Range: Crevasses, bergschrunds, glide cracks and tide cracks including cracks in near-shore snow influenced by tides and/or sea ice, and changes in risk with time of the season.

Element 2 – Management techniques for locating, marking and managing a site

2.1 Techniques and personal safety options used for safely locating known crevasses.

Range: Self-protection, GPS waypoints, probing, kicking, and external information.

2.2 Describe techniques for marking known crevasses and disclosing risk.

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

Element 3 – How to safely extract someone from a known feature without technical equipment

3.1 How to secure the site.

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

3.2 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 landing zone or other safe zone, and marks the site to share with other operators.

DATE:	REVIEWERS:
2017	Prepared by Graham Charles
8/5/2017	Graham Charles, Cam Walker, Phil Wickens, Keith Riley
22/5/2017	Graham Charles
9/6/2017	Harry Keys
14/5/2018	Qualifications Review Meeting
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