



HELISKI OPERATIONS REVIEW CHECKLIST*

CRITERIA

This Helicopter Skiing Operations Review Checklist is based on the standards established under the Helicopter Skiing Safety & Operations Program (HOSP). Where any conflict may exist between the Checklist and the HOSP, the standards enumerated in the HOSP shall prevail. Prospective Outfitter members must self-declare compliance with essential components of the checklist prior to a compliance audit which must be completed not later than the second season of membership. Outfitter members must meet all essential components as self declared by the Outfitter and substantiated by peer review by HeliSki US. Subsequent scheduling of an operational peer review of Outfitter Members is determined by the following criteria and recommendation:

A – Complete

RESULT: Meets all components classified as essential & very important

RECOMMENDATION: Operational review completed every **fifth** season.

B – Partially complete

RESULT: Meets all components classified as essential and a minimum of four listed as very important

RECOMMENDATION: Reviewed every three seasons

C – Incomplete

RESULT: Fails to meet all components classified as essential and does not meet a minimum of components listed as very important.

RECOMMENDATION: Reviewed again the following season.

*Based on Helicat Canada peer review process and Guidelines for Helicopter and Cat Skiing Operations. HeliSki US is an associate member of Helicat Canada.

DESCRIPTION	CLASSIFICATION	RESULT A;B;C
OPERATIONS –GENERAL		
Safety & Operations Program established and documented,	ESSENTIAL	
Operations Map: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displayed at Operations Base, guide meeting room and with Emergency Manual where operations are conducted from remote locations. • Marked with permit area boundaries (Operating Area), exclusion and wildlife avoidance areas, primary flight paths, air and ground evacuation routes special aviation hazards & no fly zones. • Marked with ski runs or areas of operation, landing & pick-up zones, communication sites, weather stations, and fuel caches. 	VERY IMPORTANT	
Run Catalogue with list of GPS coordinates for LZ's & PZ's and elevations for at least one key landing zone in each drainage in the permitted terrain.	IMPORTANT	
Photographs of ski runs used on a regular basis with narrative description of run, degree of difficulty and particular hazards.	IMPORTANT	
Operating parameters adopted and documented: VFR flight rules, minimum ceilings & visibility, cessation of operations at least one hour before sunset.	VERY IMPORTANT	
Communication of operations between multiple helicopters of the Outfitter and with adjacent Outfitters (if any) including communications plan, flight paths, safety procedures & position reporting.	IMPORTANT	
Clear lines of authority on cessation of operations due to weather, visibility, inability to mitigate avalanche and other risks, condition of aircraft, conduct or condition of Clients.	IMPORTANT	

PILOT QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING		
Lead Pilot & Pilot qualifications established per Section IV of HSOP.	VERY IMPORTANT	
Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of pilot training on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hazards specific to heli skiing: flat light, avalanche paths & cornices, rock falls, other back country users. ○ Seracs & crevasses for Operating Areas that include glaciers. ○ Local weather patterns. • Documentation of Pilot-Guide co-training including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operating Area/terrain familiarization, ○ Specific Aviation Hazards within the Operating Area (wires, aerals, no-fly zones, etc). ○ Operations Protocols, radio communications, hand signals, client briefing procedures and operations at LZ's & PZ's. 	VERY IMPORTANT VERY IMPORTANT	
AIRCRAFT		
Meets minimum equipment standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night VFR Instrumentation, ELT, avoidance & strobe lights, communication equipment to allow direct communication with Operations Base and Guides. • Ski basket and skis/bear paws or other FAA approved devices to support helicopter's weight on snow. • Covers, heaters and tie-downs or hanger. • Baffles if recommended by Mfr., used at pilot's discretion. 	ESSENTIAL ESSENTIAL VERY IMPORTANT	
Emergency Equipment on-board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, MRE, sleeping bag, headlamp, emergency candles, two lighters, space blanket, tarp or bivy sack, collapsible ski poles, snow shoes, signalling device. • Pilot has on board: avalanche transceiver, winter clothing & foot gear, hand-held two way radio. 	VERY IMPORTANT IMPORTANT	
Helicopter Safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide and ground crew training in Operations Base safety (signage, protocols, management): • Adequate demarcation of helicopter landing area. • Base, fuel truck, fuel cache refuelling procedures. • Landing and pickup zone management. • Call in procedures. 		
GROUND OPERATIONS		
Documentation of Ground Crew training re: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helicopter awareness, control of clients in and around helicopter, loading and unloading procedures, client briefings. • Refuelling procedures, grounding, protective equipment, spill avoidance and spill mitigation procedures. 	VERY IMPORTANT VERY IMPORTANT	
Stationary and mobile refuelling systems include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Containers for fuel residue, spreadable absorbent, shovel & bags or other containers, absorbent wipes, fire extinguisher. • 2ndary containment as applicable. • Written Spill Response Plan on hand and explained to ground crew. 	IMPORTANT	
Flight Following program:	VERY IMPORTANT	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of training of Ground Crew. • Implemented, flight following logs properly completed. 		
<p>Load Manifests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared daily based on weights taken on site. • Updated with changes though the day. 	ESSENTIAL	
<p>Emergency Manual and Communications Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy on-hand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Day Staging Area ○ Operations Base • Documentation of training. 	ESSENTIAL	
SNOW STABILITY AND HAZARD EVALUATION		
<p>Working Snow Safety and Weather Forecasting Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily application of Weather Data and/or Snow Data, as applicable, • Daily weather and snow stability forecast. • Snow stability rating system based on American Avalanche Association's Snow Stability Scale or Canadian Avalanche Danger Scale. 	ESSENTIAL	
<p>Snow Safety Director meeting experience and training requirements established in HSOP Section VIII(B)</p>	ESSENTIAL	
<p>Guides familiarized with Snow Safety and Weather Forecasting Program during scheduled annual staff training.</p>	VERY IMPORTANT	
<p>On days of flight operation, twice daily guide meetings that consider and document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow Data and Weather Data; • Snow stability and weather forecast for Operating Area, 	ESSENTIAL	
<p>Documentation of daily weather and snowfall observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Operations Base and/or from remote stations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Locations relevant to the conditions in the Operating Area. ○ Outside agencies, adjacent ski areas, mechanized skiing operators and ski touring operators (as applicable). • Data observations in standard format per Observational Guidelines of American Avalanche Association. 	VERY IMPORTANT	
<p>Tiered run, drainage and/or area of planned operations rating system to indicate runs/drainages/areas available for use, closed for use and/or requiring additional analysis. The ratings should consider avalanche/cornice hazards, glacier/crevasse /bergschrund & serac hazards (where applicable), cliffs, creeks & ski quality hazards and evacuation difficulty.</p>	VERY IMPORTANT	
OPERATING PROCEDURES		
<p>AM Guide meeting/ pre-operations briefing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather and Snow stability forecasts presented. • Proposed operational plan for day includes operating schedule, run list or area(s) of operation. • Using Operations Map, Run Catalogue and photos if available, review of primary ski runs, LZ's & PZ's, landmarks, hazards, permit boundaries, no-fly and exclusion zones, wildlife avoidance areas, emergency caches and shelters, if any. 	ESSENTIAL	
<p>Client Safety: Avalanche Response Orientation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate number of avalanche beacons for all clients, guides and ground personnel working in the field • Minimum of one client pack per group or second guide with pack (contents: probe, shovel, radio) • Adequate instruction of clients in wear and care & use of transceivers, • Adequate instruction on basic companion rescue including organizing the group into a response, assembly of the probe and shovel, use of the 	ESSENTIAL	

<p>transceiver and search pattern to search for visual clues and a signal; use of the probe to pinpoint, use of the shovel to excavate a buried victim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Familiarize clients with client pack contents from laminated rescue card ● All transceivers function tested before boarding helicopter for first time each day. 		
<p>Client Safety: Helicopter Orientation: From a check list or laminated card...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approaching the heli with skis/snowboard ● Waiting for heli at a PZ ● Entering the heli & use of seat belts ● Exiting the heli ● Waiting for the helicopter to depart ● Client control at LZ and PZ. ● Emergency Procedures. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p>	
<p>Client Safety: Skiing/Riding Protocols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication ● Client comfort and injury prevention. ● Explanation of safe zones, spacing and buddy system or team approach. ● Location of Client Pack in group. ● Hazards review: cornices, tree wells, streams, cliffs and, for Operating Areas that include glaciers, ice falls, crevasses and bergschrunds, ● For Operating Areas that include skiing/riding on glaciers, it is recommended that each Guide and client wear a climbing harness at all times and that the harnesses be checked for proper buckling prior to boarding the helicopter for the first time each day. 	<p>VERY IMPORTANT</p>	
<p>Landing Zones and Pick-up Zones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Capable of supporting fully loaded helicopter in place. ● Clear of hazards (avalanche paths, ice falls, crevasses, etc). ● Adequate clearance for main and tail rotors. ● Adequate room to unload clients and gear with clearance for unobstructed departure of aircraft. ● If LZ/PZ is to be re-used, creation of landing platform and marked/flagged per pilot preference. ● Additional flagging and/or clearance procedures for low/flat light conditions. ● Pilot-Guide communication on wind, approach and departure route & clearance issues if any. ● Guide (only) signals for departure. 	<p>VERY IMPORTANT</p>	
<p>EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING</p>		
<p>Emergency Manual adopted and implemented that includes specific plans addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safety Officer designated ● Chain of Command for emergencies established ● Emergency Communications Procedures ● Field Evacuation Plan ● Missing or Overdue Aircraft ● Aircraft Accident ● Aircraft Mechanical Failure ● Missing Skier ● Trauma/Medical Emergency ● Avalanche Rescue ● High Angle Rescue ● Environmental Emergency 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p>	

<p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of the Emergency Manual must be readily available at the Operations Base, Guide Meeting Room and Day Staging Area. • All Guides and Ground Operations Personnel receive annual training on implementation of the Emergency Manual plans. • The Emergency Manual should include a complete inventory and location of all rescue equipment. • Rescue and emergency equipment should be in plainly marked containers/packs that include a laminated inventory card and present in helicopter, at Day Staging Area or remote cache. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p>	
<p>Emergency Communications Procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must include a complete list of all rescue resources enumerated at Section X(C) of the HSOP together with contact information including radio frequencies, phone numbers, cell phone numbers, satellite phone numbers and home phone numbers as applicable. • All phone numbers and contact personnel checked and updated annually. • Radio and/or phone communications must be enabled between guides, helicopter, Operations Base and outside world. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two way radios for each guide, one additional two way radio in a Client pack. ○ Radio Repeater required for most Operating Areas. • Should include list of significant GPS Coordinates, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operations Base and regularly used Day Staging Areas. ○ Caches of fuel and emergency equipment. ○ At least one location in each drainage regularly used. Preferably a location with wide-open access for reduced visibility access. • Satellite Phones – recommend one/helicopter. All guides and pilots trained in use. • Emergency phone list posted independent of Emergency Manual at Operations Base, Day Staging Area, office (if separate), in all company vehicles and with each satellite phone. • Two-way communications such that the Outfitter is a resource to local agencies encouraged. • Documentation of twice annual training drill on Emergency Communications Procedures. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p>	
<p>Field Evacuation Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without using Operator’s aircraft, must have two alternate plans for evacuating field, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One evacuation plan without use of any aircraft. • Annual verification of resource availability. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p>	
<p>Trauma/Medical Emergency Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of current medical certifications for all Guides (OEC/WFR/EMT/WEMT/Paramedic or medical professional) • Trauma Pack and Oxygen Pack in helicopter, at Day Staging Area or close proximity to operations. • Trauma Pack suggested contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pocket mask ○ 1- Oropharyngeal airway set ○ C-collar ○ 1 -Scissor ○ 2- Emergency foil blankets ○ 2- Stretch bandages 5 yards ○ 2-4” Stretch bandages 5 yards ○ 2- Ace bandages ○ 2 -Rolls 1” adhesive tape 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>VERY IMPORTANT</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 -Rolls elastic tape ○ 3 -SAM splints ○ 4 -EZ release surgical pads ○ 6 -Combine dressings ○ 6 -Triangular bandages ○ 6 -4"x4" Gauze pads ○ 2 -4"x4" Sterile sponges ○ 6 -Large trauma bandages ○ 1 -Extra large steri-strip ○ 6 -Steri-strips ○ 6- Large butterfly bandages ○ 6- 3" Gauze rolls ○ 1- Eye patch ○ 1- Xerofoam dressing ○ 1 -Suctions device and tubing ○ 5 -Pair latex gloves ○ 1 -Roll duct tape ○ Space blanket ○ Traction (long bone) splint ○ Laminated Inventory Card ● Automated External Defibrillator (AED) recommended to be in helicopter ● Oxygen Pack recommended to be in helicopter. Contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compressed O2 and regulator ○ O2 Masks ○ Nasal cannula ○ Oropharyngeal airway set (in Trauma Pack or O2 Pack) ○ Laminated Inventory Card ● Lightweight rescue toboggan for non life threatening injuries (SKED, Rescue Bubble) in helicopter, Day Staging Area or close proximity to operations. ● Backboard and evacuation litter together with straps and other devices to secure a victim at Day Staging Area or close proximity to operations. ● Documentation of annual medical evacuation drill using both helicopter and snowmobile. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>VERY IMPORTANT</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>IMPORTANT</p>	
<p>Avalanche Emergency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rescue Plan primarily relies upon resources on-site and in the field to respond to Avalanche Emergency. ● Site resource use notwithstanding, Outfitter maintains an Avalanche Rescue Pack at its Day Staging Area or other appropriate location which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Probes ○ Shovels ○ Wands taped together (tomato stakes) ○ Flagging tape ○ Laminated inventory card. ● The Avalanche Rescue Plan should specify that the Trauma Pack, O2 Pack and AED are always dispatched with the Avalanche Rescue Pack. ● Each client, guide and all personnel working in the field must wear an avalanche transceiver at all times. ● Each guide equipped with a two way radio, probe and shovel and at least one client or second guide in each group equipped with the same items and trained in use. ● Outfitter conducts several Avalanche Emergency rescue drills each season and includes both single burial and multiple burial scenarios. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>VERY IMPORTANT</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p>	

<p>High Angle Rescue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operator has High Angle Rescue Plan suitable to the terrain in its Operating Area. • High Angle Rescue Pack, Suggested Contents (will vary according to terrain in Operating Area): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climbing Harnesses (3) ○ Dynamic Rope (2) 40 meters or longer ○ Static Rope (1)100 meters or longer ○ Locking Carabineers (8) ○ Pulleys (2) ○ Tubular Webbing (2) 5 meters each ○ Cordellete (2) 8mm x 8 meters ○ Prussic (4) simple loop and (2) leg loop for ascending ○ Ascenders (2) ○ Figure 8's or other belaying devices (2) ○ Anchors (2) (pickets, etc.) ○ Cam Straps (4) 4-8 meters ○ Laminated Inventory Card • High Angle Rescue Pack and additional contents <u>mandatory</u> where Operating Area includes glaciers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ice Screws (6), 3 long & 3 short; ○ Crampons (2) pair, tool-less adjusting; ○ Ice Axes (2) • Suggested Alternative for operations that do not require guides to carry high angle rescue equipment in their packs: Lightweight Glacier/Cliff/Creek rescue rope kit to be kept in helicopter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1-50m half rope - 4- 7mm x 5m Cordelletes - 1-6.5m webbing - 2- Harness (large) - 4- non locking carabineers - 4- locking carabineers • Training Drills: Once annually for operations with precipitous terrain features and twice annually for operations with glaciers in Operating Area. 	<p>VERY IMPORTANT</p> <p>VERY IMPORTANT</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>IMPORTANT</p> <p>VERY IMPORTANT</p>	
<p>Environmental Emergency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource and contact verification annually. • Training of ground personnel for implementation of SPCC plan annually. • Inventory of spill mitigation materials and tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fixed location fuel systems – weekly ○ Mobile fuel systems – daily 	<p>IMPORTANT</p>	
GUIDES AND GUIDE EQUIPMENT		
<p>Guide Equipment Includes:</p> <p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group list each day for all persons in the field-updated after regrouping • Notebook/pencil • Radio • Headlamp • Companion rescue: Transceiver, Shovel, Probe • First aid kit; splint • Wood saw (Operators in areas with limited trees substitute emergency candle) • Lighter and Fire starter • Altimeter • Lightweight metal cup or aluminium foil to facilitate melting snow for drinking. • Down jacket (recommend sized XL) 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>IMPORTANT</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bivy sack • Leatherman or equivalent; light repair kit • Snow Observation kit: crystal screen, magnifier, thermometer, ruler, snow saw • Flagging tape or other marking supply • Water <p>Optional (depending on terrain):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skins • Extra gloves (may be carried in guest pack) • Extra goggles (may be carried in guest pack) • Extra hat (may be carried in guest pack) • Light weight heli rope rescue kit (as applicable) 		
<p>Availability of Operations Base back-up rescue equipment listed according to the Emergency Manual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescue Toboggan(s), backboard, blankets, belay rope • Supplemental Oxygen Unit • Supplementary First Aid Supplies • Second Trauma Kit (optional) • Avalanche Rescue Pack <p>Optional: Overnight response kit (warm packs) packed in waterproof drop bag:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping bags, tents, stoves, food, tarps, blankets, pots • High Angle Rescue Pack 	VERY IMPORTANT	
<p>Availability of additional rescue equipment such as glacier rescue packs, toboggan, overnight “warm” packs, and other specialized rescue gear as listed in the guidelines and stored in various places such as remote cache or fuel truck. Packs are itemized, labelled and listed in the rescue plan.</p>	IMPORTANT	
<p>GUIDE QUALIFICATIONS</p>		
<p>[From Heli Ski US Guide Standards]</p> <p>Level I – Associate Guides: Assistant guides, tail guides, guest guides, or emeritus guides. Level I guides should be able to demonstrate or document the following skills, knowledge, education, and experience:</p> <p>Weather, Avalanches, and Snow Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal Training and experience. - A basic understanding of mountain weather. - A basic understanding of avalanche hazard evaluation and mitigation. - Ability to successfully search for multiple buried avalanche beacons. - Knowledge of avalanche rescue principles. <p>Emergency Medical Care, Rescue, and Evacuation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency medical skills: valid WFR or higher level certification. - Basic life support skills certification: Valid American Red Cross <i>CPR for the Professional Rescuer</i> or American Heart Association <i>Health Care Provider BLS</i> certification, + AED training if applicable). - Experience as a ski patroller or other mountain rescue technician and/or formal training in basics of technical extrication, stabilization &, evacuation in conditions likely in Operating Area. <p>Winter Mountaineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert skiing and/or snowboarding skills w/ heavy backpack and/or other equipment (skis, poles, camera equipment or rescue gear). - Experience in winter mountaineering and backcountry travel. - Competence in route finding, navigation, map and compass use. 	ESSENTIAL	

- Competence in winter camping and survival skills.
- Guiding / Interpersonal Skills by radio or telephone, face to face, and written material.
- Experience in face to face customer service.

Helicopter Skiing Operations

- Knowledge & ability to apply basic procedures used in the heli-ski operation.
- Thorough knowledge of the procedures used for loading and unloading Clients and equipment in helicopter and ability to supervise clients.

Qualifying Associate Guide

- Provided that their activities are monitored and closely supervised by a Lead Guide, Associate Guides may lead a Group if they have demonstrated competency in all relevant guiding skills to the satisfaction of a Lead Guide and:
 - Have 20 days of on-snow guiding experience with a Helicopter Skiing Operation as a tail guide under direct supervision of a Guide; or
 - Have 15 days of on-snow guiding experience with a Helicopter Skiing Operation as a tail guide under the direct supervision of a Guide & have successfully completed an approved Mechanized Ski Guide course; or
 - Have not fewer than 10 days of on-snow guiding experience with a Helicopter Skiing Operation as a tail guide under the direct supervision of a Guide & least 30 days of on-snow guiding experience with a back-country skiing guide service or similar operation. Up to 5 days of an approved Mechanized Ski Guide Course may be substituted for back-country guiding experience.
- All runs, Landing Zones and Pick-up Zones utilized by a Qualifying Associate Guide and Group require the approval of Lead Guide.

Level II Guides: Able to lead groups of helicopter skiers under the general supervision of a Lead Guide. In addition to the skills, knowledge, education, and experience of Level I Guides, Level II Guides should be able to demonstrate or document the following:

Weather, Avalanches, and Snow Safety

- Additional participation in formal avalanche courses, seminars, workshops and/or employment as a snow safety technician with frequent and regular participation in avalanche control and snow safety work.
- A thorough understanding of mountain weather.
- The ability to evaluate weather conditions and make recommendations and/or decisions regarding the effects of weather on heli-skiing operations.
- Knowledge of and skill in the observation and recording of avalanche activity and gathering and recording of weather, avalanche, and snowpack data.
- Thorough understanding of avalanche hazard evaluation and mitigation, including knowledge of navigation and route finding in avalanche terrain.
- Able to prepare and present orientations and training for others.
- Knowledge of avalanche rescue principles, procedures, and techniques sufficient to act as accident site commander or incident commander, or to fill other leadership roles during an avalanche rescue.

Emergency Medical Care, Rescue, and Evacuation

- Valid EMT, OEC, or higher level certification.
- Basic life support skills and certification (valid American Red Cross *CPR for the Professional Rescuer* or American Heart Association *Health Care Provider BLS* certification + AED training if applicable).
- Experience and/or training in technical extrication, stabilization,

evacuation, and transportation of sick and/or injured patients, pertinent to the terrain and conditions.

- The ability to fill a leadership role in the assessment, extrication, stabilization, evacuation, and transportation of sick or injured patients.
- Knowledge of the policies and procedures regarding emergency medical care, rescue, and evacuation, including risk management procedures.
- Knowledge of available rescue resources (equipment, manpower, EMS and agency contacts).

Winter Mountaineering

- The ability to demonstrate and teach intermediate level skiing and/or snowboarding techniques.
- Experience and expertise in winter mountaineering and backcountry travel.
- Ability to teach route finding, navigation, map and compass use.
- Ability to teach and demonstrate expertise in winter camping and survival skills.

Helicopter Skiing Operations

- Minimum of 60 days of on-snow guiding experience, in at least two ski seasons, with a helicopter ski operation.
- Knowledge of local terrain (ranges, areas of operation, peaks, drainages, runs), climate, weather, snowpack, and surface snow conditions.
- Knowledge of the policies and procedures of a particular heli-ski operation, including but not limited to procedures for regular or standard operations, custom or special operations, and emergency operations.
- Knowledge of the conditions of any permits.
- Understanding of interactions and impacts upon recreationists and other land users.
- Knowledge of the guidelines and/or procedures for selecting and preparing landing zones.
- Knowledge of the procedures for communications between guides, pilots, base stations, and others.
- Ability to prepare and present safety briefings and training sessions for other employees of the heli-ski operation.

Guiding / Interpersonal Skills

- Public speaking and group management skills, including the ability to deliver safety briefings and demonstrations to clients.
- Continued development of the “soft” interpersonal skills used in guiding heli-ski clients.
- Ability to communicate effectively and work closely with co-workers in the heli-ski operation, including the ability to provide effective supervision of parts of the operation.
- Ability to evaluate client needs and lead them to the best, most appropriate snow and terrain available at a given time, considering each group’s impact on other groups within the same operation.

Level III guides: Lead Guides or supervisors, able to lead groups of helicopter skiers without supervision. In addition to the skills, knowledge, education, and experience of Level I and Level II guides, Level III guides should be able to demonstrate or document the following:

Weather, Avalanches, and Snow Safety

- Additional participation in formal avalanche courses, seminars, workshops, or training sessions, and/or continued employment as a snow safety technician with frequent and regular participation in avalanche control and snow safety work.
- Thorough understanding & ability to access and utilize, information and

- data for the forecasting of mountain weather and avalanche hazard.
- Ability to supervise, avalanche hazard evaluation and mitigation for a heli-skiing operation.
- Ability to supervise observation and recording of avalanche activity and the gathering and recording of weather, avalanche, and snowpack data.
- Able to prepare and present briefings and training sessions, and to fill any leadership role during an avalanche rescue.

Emergency Medical Care, Rescue, and Evacuation

- Continued experience and/or training, and the ability to provide training, in technical extrication, stabilization, evacuation, and transportation of sick and/or injured patients.
- Thorough knowledge of all available rescue resources.
- Understanding of the relationships between the heli-ski operation and other entities (Forest Service, BLM, States, Landowners, Law Enforcement, EMS) as they pertain to rescue and evacuation of heli-skiers and participation in other SAR events.

Winter Mountaineering

- Continued pursuit of the development of winter mountaineering skills, including skiing and/or snowboarding; the ability to accurately and objectively evaluate the skills of others; and the ability to provide training in a wide range of skills.

Helicopter Skiing Operations

- Additional 80 days of on-snow guiding experience, in at least two ski seasons, with a helicopter ski operation.
- Knowledge of the policies and procedures of a particular heli-ski operation, including but not limited to procedures for regular or standard operations, custom or special operations, and emergency operations.
- Thorough knowledge of the conditions of permits and the ability to supervise and direct operations in accordance with those permits.
- Understanding of interactions between and impacts upon different groups within a heli-ski operation, and the ability to supervise operations to minimize conflicts within the operation and negative impacts upon recreationists and other land users.
- Knowledge of the procedures for communications between guides, pilots, and other participants in the heli-ski operation, and the ability to direct & improve the efficacy of those communications
- Ability to prepare and present safety briefings and training sessions for other employees of the heli-ski operation.
- Understanding of business and financial aspects of a particular heli-ski operation, and the ability to conduct operations in a businesslike manner while maintaining safety as a priority.

Guiding / Interpersonal Skills

- Continued development of the ability to communicate effectively and work closely with co-workers in the heli-ski operation, while filling a supervisory role.
- Experience, education, and training contributing to development of skills and knowledge involved in managing the field operations.
- The ability to manage and supervise heli-skiing operations, using feedback from other team members, to provide Clients with the best possible experience on a given day, while simultaneously paying attention to safety and the business aspects of the heli-ski operation.