

Subject: Working in Snow Avalanche Areas - Policy and Procedures	
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Attached is the new Policy and Procedures for working in Snow Avalanche Areas.

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WORKING IN SNOW AVALANCHE AREAS - POLICY AND PROCEDURES

SCOPE

As part of the regular activities of the Ministry of Transportation and Highways - Electrical maintenance employees and electrical contractors may be required to work in a designated "snow avalanche area". All work in these areas is to be conducted in accordance with this document. *Appendix A of the Snow Avalanche Programs Safety Measures for Highways Manual* lists designated avalanche areas.

POLICY

Work in avalanche areas is to be conducted under the following conditions:

1. Work can only be undertaken inside an area that is between "No stopping - Avalanche Area" and "End Avalanche Area" during times when the posted snow avalanche hazard is rated as "Low".
2. When work is to be done between snow avalanche area signs all personnel must check with the appropriate avalanche technician safety measures.
3. When working all personnel shall check the avalanche hazard rating regularly throughout the day. They must stop all work and leave the area if the snow avalanche hazard has become "Moderate" or "High".

Additional requirements:

1. If Ministry personnel are required to work in avalanche areas on a regular basis specialised training shall be completed.

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PROCEDURES

The following procedures must be followed by the on-site supervisor when working in a snow avalanche area.

Preparation

1. Check with avalanche technician for safety measures required on that given day. These measures may include; spotters in place, rescue equipment on site, etc.
2. Establish a work plan approved by their supervisor.

Immediately Before Entering a Snow Avalanche Area

1. Establish the current avalanche hazard level. This information is available from the local Snow Avalanche Technician and/or Regional Radio Room.
2. Inform the Regional Radio Room the location and length of time work is occurring in a snow avalanche area.

When Working in a Snow Avalanche Area

1. Periodically check in with the Snow Avalanche Technician responsible for the snow avalanche area to establish current avalanche hazard. This must be done at least once every four hours.
2. Inform Regional Radio Room if the work is not going to be completed within the time originally planned and give an estimated completion time.

After Completing Work in a Snow Avalanche Area

1. Report to the Snow Avalanche Technician and the Region Radio Room that all personnel are clear of the snow avalanche area.