

## 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 one Instructor Training Course (ITC) prior to instructing* the AIARE Level 1 course, and one 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 years and* to maintain familiarity and currency with the curriculum and teaching techniques. Alternatively a course provider may contract an AIARE Peer Review in lieu of sending multiple instructors to an 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 is required 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 must be qualified as "Course Instructors." [Check here](#) for Level 1 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 is required 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 be held indoors or outdoors, and are designed to target the interest and experience of each participant. IRC course content changes annually.

## **AIARE Peer Review**

### *An alternative option to the IRC's*

The AIARE Peer Review consists of an AIARE Instructor Trainer auditing an AIARE provider's course. AIARE course providers 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 assist with sessions as a guest instructor, but they will not serve as the Course Leader, nor count towards the instructor to student ratios. The Peer Review provides the opportunity for several instructors to fulfill the IRC requirement simultaneously, gain course venue specific feedback, and avoid combined travel expenses and time of traveling to an IRC. The course provider will cover all expenses necessary for the review, including the reviewer's wage, travel costs and per diem.

## **Continued Professional Development (CPD)**

AIARE instructors are encouraged to work as avalanche practitioners, ski guides or forecasters during the same winters they teach AIARE courses. Instructors are encouraged to stay practiced and "up to date" each season with a current understanding of avalanches and hazard management. 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 AIARE 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*

Attendance at:

- International Snow and Science Workshop (ISSW)
- 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 related published articles
- ISSW Posters/Oral presentations
- Committee service (example: volunteering for the AIARE Advisory Board)
- Development of course materials and training used within your organization

