Rescue Mindsets

Nick Logan

SILVERTON
AVALANCHE SCHOOL

RECOGNIZED
AMERICAN
AVALANCHE
ASSOCIATION
PROVIDER
LEVEL 1
RESCUE
LEVEL 2

AMERICAN
AVALANCHE
ASSOCIATION
APPROVED EDUCATION PROVIDER OF
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

ACCREDITED BUSINESS
EXPERTISE PROFESSIONALISM STEWARDSHIP
AMGA

C-RAD

ICAR
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ALPINE RESCUE

The AvGAR

A Decision-Making Tool for the Assessment & Deployment of Avalanche SAR Missions

National Department of Response

Surface Operations Risk Calculation Worksheet
Calculating Risk Using the **GAR** Model
(GREEN-AMBER-RED)

This Worksheet should be used for all surface operations unless other GAR forms have been mandated by local OIAs.

GAR IS BASED ON A TEAM DISCUSSION TO UNDERSTAND AND EVALUATE THE RISKS ATTENDANT TO A MISSION AND HOW THEY WILL BE MANAGED.
RISK MANAGEMENT IS WHAT IS IMPORTANT; NOT THE ABILITY TO ASSIGN NUMERICAL VALUES OR COLORS TO RISK ELEMENTS.

Assign a risk code of 0 (For No Risk) through 10 (For Maximum Risk) to each of the six elements below. The discussion should start with the junior (least experienced) members first on each category.

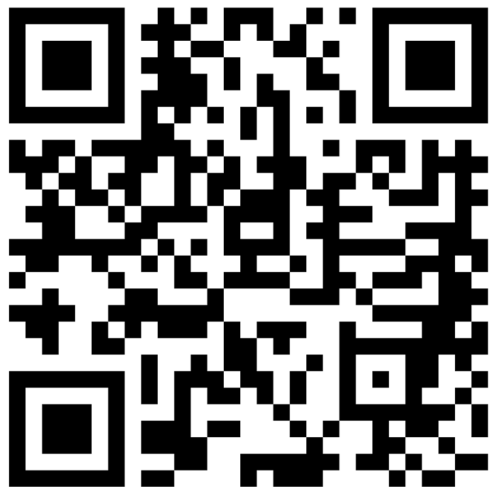|	
Supervision -qualifications / experience / communications	
Planning – details / clarity / vessel selection and condition	
Team Selection – qualifications / experience	
Team Fitness – physical / mental state	
Environment - seas / visibility / wind / current / temperatures	
Event/Evolution Complexity –details / tasks	
Total Risk Score	

GAR Evaluation Scale - Color Coding the Level Of Risk

0	23	44	60
10 20	30 40	50	
GREEN (Low Risk)	**AMBER** (Caution)	**RED** (High Risk)	

If the total falls in the green zone, risk is at a minimum. If the total falls in the amber zone, risk is moderate and you should consider adopting procedures to minimize risk.

IF THE TOTAL FALLS IN THE RED ZONE, YOU NEED TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK PRIOR TO STARTING THE EVENT/EVOLUTION.

THE GAR MODEL SHOULD BE USED AS PART OF PLANNING OPERATIONS, AND SHOULD BE CONTINUALLY REASSESSED AS WE REACH MILESTONES WITHIN OUR PLANS, OR AS ELEMENTS CHANGE.

August 2009

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THE **AVGAR**

Silverton Avalanche School

SUPERVISION
Leadership is actively engaged, knowledgeable, and experienced in avy rescue/response. Accessible for all teams. Chain of command is clear from bottom to top. ICS protocols are understood & field teams are empowered via de-centralized command

TEAM SELECTION
Team meets/exceeds thelevelof experience and trained to move through avy terrain. Team is competent in snowpack, terrain, weather, and human considerations. Adequate numbers of personnel for mission tasks.

TEAM FITNESS
Team is mentally and physical fit. Team is rested, engaged, and has good morale. Team has a high level of situational and self awareness. Team is mindful of human factors and internal/external bias.

ENVIRONMENT
Avalanche and meteorological forecast reviewed. Terrain familiarity, snowpack knowledge, and weather challenges are understood. Recognized and anticipated natural hazards identified.

FIXED CATAGORIES

PLANNING
Adequate intel on victim(s). Review ingress and egress, turn around, tactical pause, and re-GAR points. Required equipment and PPE. Risk vs rewards, long approaches, remoteness, elevation gain, altitude considered. Safety for overwatch and spotting changing conditions established.

CONTINGENCY RESOURCES
Additional resources/assets exist, are easily actionable/deployable, and provide ample opportunity for adaptation, alternative action, and solutions. Rescue plan for rescuers in place.

COMMUNICATION
Two way communications, understood area of coverage, back up/satellite communications available. Non-verbal protocols established

TASK COMPEXITY
Complexity increased by:heightened avy danger, persistent/problematic weak layers, unfamiliar terrain, time of day, inclimate weather, deteriorating conditions, aviation/mechanized assets, limited resources, multi-agency collaboration, limited and/or unknown intel.

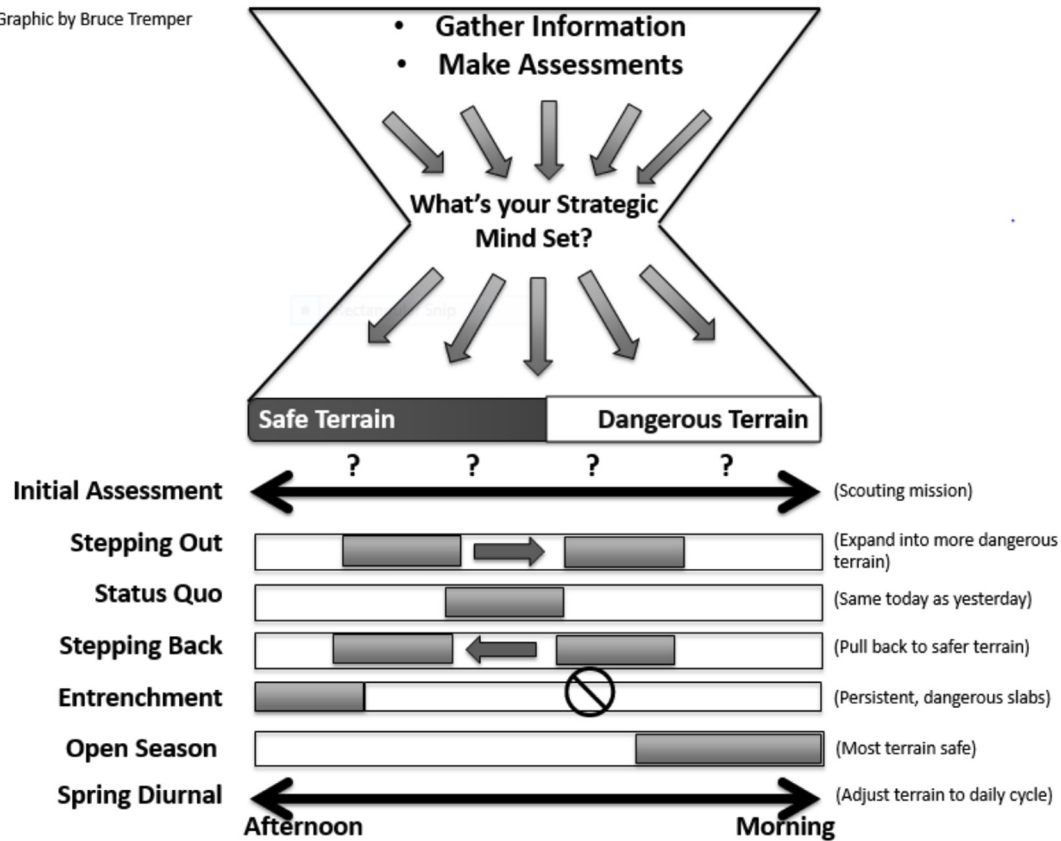**MALLEABLE CATAGORIES**

AVGAR TAR 2.4-

Fig. 1: Strategic Mind-set

YIN, YANG, AND YOU
Roger Atkins

International Snow Science Workshop, Banff, 2014

Readiness

Mother Nature Bats Last

REHEARSAL

Everyone has a Plan Until They Get Punched in the Face

RESCUE

Non-critical/ Stable

Bad Days Get Better When Good Days Stay Great

RAPID

Critical/ UnStable

In a Game of Minutes, Seconds Count!

RECOVERY

Make Bad

Decisions Wisely

RESET

We Don't Get it Right, We Just Don't Get it Wrong Enough

RESCUE MINDSETS

SASSAR

Default Response Mindset:

READINESS
Situation Normal and Operations Routine(SNOR). Team is poised and positioned to respond to any & all avalanche SAR incidents.
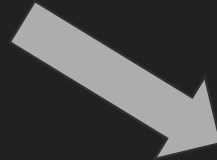
De-Mobilization Mindset:

RESET
Team is currently non-operational as they debrief prior action/previous mission. Membership reflects upon & refine the tools, tactics and techniques utilized in their response. These learnings & take-aways are then implemented & readied via a complete reset of resources, systems & cycles & a return to SNOR & a Readiness Mindset

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SILVERTON AVALANCHE SCHOOL

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FIXED CATAGORIES

Mobilization Mindset:

REHEARSE
Team conducts training in a controlled setting that allows ample opportunity for instruction, dry-runs, failure, feedback, evaluation and validation.Training is designed to maximize educational value while minimizing risk.

RESCUE (Non-Critical /Stable)
Team conducts rescue missions where subjects are non-critical & stable. This mindset calls for responders to act while balancing urgency against pragmatic attention to risk assessment/management & a subject's ability to endure a delayed response.
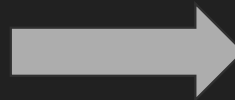
RAPID (Critical /Unstable)
The mindset calls for responders to adopt a higher level of risk acceptance due to a subject's vital need for critical care. Rescuers accept higher exposure & vulnerability to objective hazards in order to affect a rapid response.

RECOVERY
Team executes a deliberately planned & paced response to a field based fatality. There exists no need to rush or accept unnecessary risk, exposure or vulnerability.

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DISCIPLINE

A Powerful Response to a Deep-seated Instinct