

## Addendum - avalanche involvement definitions– May 2013

“New Zealand Guidelines and Recording Standards for Weather, Snowpack and Avalanche Observations” 2011 edition

Insert - Page 75, Appendix B.5 Definitions:

### B.5 Definitions

The following definitions are provided for reporting incidents and accidents with the intent of delineating between different rescue scenarios.

A person is *caught* if they are touched and adversely affected by the avalanche. People performing slope cuts are generally not considered caught in the resulting avalanche unless they are carried down the slope.

For people who are *caught*, specify the degree of burial according to the following:

1. A person is *not buried* if they are on the surface, their airway is not impaired and they are free to move when the avalanche stops.

Examples include situations where a person performing a slope cut is carried only a short distance down the slope (caught) but manages to move off of the debris whilst staying on their feet.

2. A person is *partially buried – not critical* if part of their body or clothing is visible and their breathing is not impaired by the snow when the avalanche stops. This requires that the person's head is above the snow surface and their airway is not obstructed.

3. A person is *partially buried – critical* if part of their body, clothing or attached equipment is visible but their breathing is impaired by the snow when the avalanche stops. Examples include situations where a person's head is buried below the surface, or a person's head is above the surface but their airway is plugged by snow. A person not buried but suffering from impaired breathing (i.e. airway plugged with snow) is also classified *partially buried – critical*.

4. A person is *completely buried* if they are completely beneath the snow surface when the avalanche stops.

For people that were *completely buried or partially buried – critical* estimate the length of time they were buried and the burial depth measured from the snow surface to their face.