

About this scale:

Any given piece of mountain terrain may have elements that will fit into multiple classes. Applying a terrain exposure rating involves considering all of the variables described above, with some default priorities.

Terrain that qualifies under an ***italicized bold*** descriptor automatically defaults into that or a higher terrain class. Non-italicized descriptors carry less weight and will not trigger a default, but must be considered in combination with the other factors.

Adapted from Parks Canada's Document: "Technical Model (V. 1-04)"

	Simple — Class 1	Challenging — Class 2	Complex — Class 3
Slope angle — □	Angles generally < 30°	Mostly low angle, isolated slopes >35°	<i>Variable with large >35°</i>
Slope shape — □	Uniform	Some convexities	Convoluted
Forest density — □	Primarily treed with some forest openings	Mixed trees and open terrain	Large expanses of open terrain. Isolated tree bands
Terrain traps — □	Minimal, some creek slopes or cutbanks	Some depressions, gullies and/or overhead avalanche terrain	<i>Many depressions, gullies, cliffs, hidden slopes above gullies, cornices</i>
Avalanche frequency — □ <i>(events:years)</i>	1:30 ≥ size 2	1:1 for < size 2 1:3 for ≥ size 2	1:1 < size 3 1:1 ≥ size 3
Start zone density — □	Limited open terrain	Some open terrain. Isolated avalanche paths leading to valley bottom	Large expanses of open terrain. Multiple avalanche paths leading to valley bottom
Runout zone characteristics — □	Solitary, well defined areas, smooth transitions, spread deposits	Abrupt transitions or depressions with deep deposits	Multiple converging runout zones, confine deposition area, steep tracks overhead
Interaction with avalanche paths — □	Runout zones only	Single path or paths with separation	<i>Numerous and overlapping paths</i>
Route options — □	Numerous, terrain allows multiple choices	A selection of choices of varying exposure, options to avoid avalanche paths	<i>Limited chances to reduce exposure, avoidance not possible</i>
Exposure time — □	None, or limited exposure crossing runouts only	<i>Isolated exposure to start zones and tracks</i>	<i>Frequent exposure to start zones and tracks</i>
Glaciation — □	None	<i>Generally smooth with isolated bands of crevasses</i>	<i>Broken or steep sections of crevasse icefalls or serac exposure</i>

