



# Rescue Dynamics

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5109 – 17A Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6L 1K5  
(780) 461-5040 email: [resquedynamicsinfo@telus.net](mailto:resquedynamicsinfo@telus.net)  
website: [www.RescueDynamics.ca](http://www.RescueDynamics.ca)

This letter will serve to introduce you to the Mountain & Wilderness Navigation Course you expressed interest in. The date for the course is September 15, 16, 2007. The cost of the course is \$159.00 (per person including GST).

In order for you to be confirmed on the course you must prepay the course fee, complete the personal information, then read, understand and sign the waiver. The waiver must be witnessed by someone other than a family member. (Cheques may be made payable to Rescue Dynamics.) If you have not paid, your spot is NOT booked. We reserve the right to cancel the course in case of "severe" weather or low enrollment. Should this happen, your course fees will be refunded.

See our website for complete cancellation policies and procedures. Medical cancellation coverage is available for an additional \$7.50. Should less than three persons sign up for the course, we reserve the right to cancel the course. We also reserve the right to cancel the course in the event of severe weather. Should this happen, your course fees will be refunded.

The course consists of two days of map reading, compass use, bearings, back bearings, resections, dead reckoning, aiming off, handrails, altimeter use, backstops, whiteout navigation, wands, satellite GPS and more jam packed into the weekend. A great mix of classroom and outdoor exercises. Instruction begins in Canmore and travels into the mountains from there.

We will provide instruction and all the necessary gear including maps, compasses, GPS and more. If you own your own compass, feel free to bring it, but DO NOT buy a compass before coming. Most people change their minds about what they should buy after attending this course. If you must buy before you come, give us a call first.

We DO NOT provide hiking boots, day pack or clothing. Be sure your clothing can handle the changes in a mountain environment, including heat, cold, wind, rain (or snow?), sun and insects. We are indoors on the first day and outdoors on the second day. The course will proceed in all but the most severe weather.

You are responsible for your own meals, accommodation and transportation for the entire course. Bring a bag lunch and water or other drinks for each day of the course. We do not return to the vehicles for lunch on the second day.

Meeting time and place for the course is 8:00 am, at a location to be announced in Jasper. Be completely ready for an indoor class at that time, but bring warm clothes for an outdoor session later in the afternoon. Persons unfamiliar with the location can check our website for maps to be posted prior to each course (or call for directions). The second day will be outdoors near Jasper.

Locations will depend upon conditions and weather and will be determined by the end of the class on the first day.

Participants are responsible for their own meals and accommodation. Jasper has many hotels, motels, hostels and campsites. The Jasper International Hostel is low priced hostel style accommodation. National Park campgrounds now accept reservations, and Whistler Mountain campground is large and close to Jasper townsite and may be a choice if you are camping.. Members of the Alberta Motor Association (CAA / AAA) may want to check with AMA Travel for low vacation getaway rates on motel / hotel style accommodation.

In case of emergency, you can contact me by cell phone on the morning of the course at (780) 916-7951. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely

Cyril Shokoples IFMGA  
Chief Instructor / Mountain Guide

# General Course Overview

Notice: Course content subject to revision or modification without notice

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## Mountain & Wilderness Navigation

- Basic components of maps used in wilderness navigation
  - types of maps- map scales
  - grid lines- grid references
  - North (*Magnetic, True, Grid*)- contours lines, intervals
  - colors- symbols
  - publication date- accuracy (including age of information)
  
- Use of a topographic map in determining present location.
  - interpreting contours- orienting a map
  - triangulation- plotting bearings
  - bearing - feature intersections- known elevations (altimeter)
  - taking bearing perpendicular to slope
  
- Basic compass use
  - parts of a compass- adjusting for declination
  - taking bearings- determining back bearings
  - following bearings
  
- use of an altimeter in wilderness navigation
  - barometric pressure- map & altimeter
  - effect of weather changes- resetting altimeter
  - altimeter as a weather tool
  
- techniques used in land travel / wilderness navigation
  - reading terrain- painting a mental picture
  - map & terrain interpretation- locating objective hazards
  - map & altimeter- compass & altimeter on ridge, river etc.
  - map and compass- estimating times & distances
  - handrails and funnels- aiming off
  - backstops- attack points
  
- techniques for high alpine navigation in winter or on glaciers
  - whiteout navigation- use of wands in winter
  - compass & wands in line- the "V" target
  - camping at a backstop- keeping track of distances
  - obstacles during whiteout travel
  
- use of the GPS system as an aid to navigation
  - advantages- shortcomings