

# ATES assessment for:-

Done by:-

Date:-

	<b>1 – Simple</b>	<b>2 – Challenging</b>	<b>3 – Complex</b>
<b>Slope angle</b>	Angles generally < 30°	<i>Mostly low angle, isolated slopes &gt; 35°</i>	<i>Variable with large % &gt;35°</i>
<b>Slope shape</b>	Uniform	Some convexities	Convoluted
<b>Forest density</b>	Primarily treed with some forest openings	Mixed trees and open terrain	Large expanses of open terrain. Isolated tree bands
<b>Terrain traps</b>	Minimal, some creek slopes or cut banks	Some depressions, gullies and/or overhead avalanche terrain	<i>Many depressions, gullies. Cliffs, hidden slopes above gullies, cornices</i>
<b>Avalanche frequency (events:years)</b>	1:30 ≥ size 2	1:1 for < size 2 <i>1:3 for ≥ size 2</i>	1:1 < size 3 <i>1:1 ≥ size 3</i>
<b>Start zone density</b>	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
<b>Runout zone characteristics</b>	Solitary, well defined areas smooth transitions, spread deposits	Abrupt transitions or depressions with deep deposits	Multiple converging run-out zones, confined deposition area, steep tracks overhead.
<b>Interaction with avalanche paths</b>	Run-out zones only	Single path or paths with separation	<i>Numerous and overlapping paths</i>
<b>Route options</b>	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>
<b>Exposure time</b>	None, or limited exposure crossing run-outs only	<i>Isolated exposure to start zones and tracks</i>	<i>Frequent exposure to start zones and tracks</i>
<b>Glaciation</b>	None	<i>Generally smooth with isolated bands of crevasses</i>	<i>Broken or steep sections of crevasses, icefalls or serac exposure</i>

**Using 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* 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 a combination with the other factors.

\* Route options needs assessing in combination with avalanche frequency. It only defaults to challenging or complex if the frequency assessment fits the challenging or complex criteria.

**ATES classification:-**

Simple

Challenging

Complex

**Comment:-**