

# Alpine safety

When working in alpine locations, especially in high altitude or extreme conditions, productions need to ensure the environment is understood and measures are put in place to ensure the safety. It is important to have competent guides and specialist advice.





## Section 5

### Alpine Safety

**Backcountry terrain is neither patrolled nor controlled by professionals, so if filming is to occur ‘out back’ or beyond the ski area boundary, it’s important to be well trained in avalanche safety and search and rescue techniques at all times of the year.**



ScreenSafe suggests all productions are familiar with the [Mountain Safety Association](#) and [AdventureSmart](#).

#### Ensuring safety

Productions should ensure:

- specialist advice is sought for all activities;
- competent guides are used, especially in extreme conditions;
- seek local knowledge;
- crew and cast have and use personal protective equipment, including solid shoes, rain jacket, warm clothing (avoid cotton and denim), hat and gloves;
- all equipment is maintained, tested and present;
- crew and cast understand the risk of hypothermia, how to identify it and what to do;
- crew and cast have enough food (to last an extra night in case of an emergency) and water (at least 2L per person);
- two-way communication is available;
- alternative exit routes are planned in case conditions change;
- emergency shelters are available;
- appropriate first aid kit is available;
- weather forecasts are checked – MetService mountain weather forecast;
- surroundings are checked for recent avalanche activity, changes in terrain and snowpack;
- fatigue is taken into consideration and managed;
- crew and cast are provided appropriate breaks to rest and take on food / water;
- an emergency plan is in place;
- crew and cast prepare for, and understand, the risk of avalanches;
- crew and cast understand the risks – consider putting key crew members through safety courses; and
- ensure crew and cast are fit enough for the tasks required of them, such as having to hike for an extended period of time.