

Special Information for Medical Practitioners
Applicable to currently licensed doctors, nurses, PAs, NPs and EMT/Paramedics

Mt. Hood Ski Patrol is a member of the National Ski Patrol (“NSP”). And, NSP requires that all patrollers hold a current Outdoor Emergency Care (“OEC”) card including doctors, nurses, paramedics, emergency medical technicians and first responders. There are no substitute credentials for the OEC card.

Ski patrolling is very different from working in a practice, clinic or hospital. It is different from working in an emergency room or even an ambulance. Our first response is conducted in the wind and snow with little more than the supplies that can be carried in a small pack. Our patients are typically 20 minutes or more from shelter, and over than an hour from a hospital.

Is there a shortcut or challenge to OEC for medical professionals?

The short answer is no. MHSP strongly recommends that everyone take the full OEC course. The course is important for becoming familiar with MHSP equipment, procedures and protocols and for bonding with your apprentice team.

If you are actively working in an Emergency Services field, you might be eligible to skip a few of the classes. But really, we would appreciate your attendance at all the classes, as it helps weaker students to practice with a strong partner.

What if I want to try to challenge?

NSP has very narrow guidelines for certain active emergency medical professionals to challenge the OEC course. If you are not actively practicing emergency medicine, you will not meet those requirements.

If you qualify to challenge the course there are very specific requirements. There is only one challenge attempt permitted. If you fail the challenge, there is no option but to take the full course.

During the challenge process, you will be required to attend about 40% of the regular OEC evening classes, and two field days, in order to become trained in OEC skills, procedures, protocols, and MHSP equipment.

All requests to challenge OEC are reviewed by the MHSP First Aid Chief. If you are actively employed in an Emergency Services field, you must apply for the challenge and determination of eligibility will be evaluated during the recruiting and tryout process. Please send your request for a challenge to mhsp@onebox.com, and note all applicable experience and current credentials on your MHSP application.