

CT REGION OEC

Ski Patrollers

Summer 2025

This time of year is always exciting for me as a ski patroller and OEC instructor. Patrol candidates are working hard to be part of our teams, instructors are busy putting together a great refresher for all of you, you are all getting prepared for the season, and the ski areas are gearing up steadily.

To the right are a few nuggets of information you need to know as an OEC technician. Per NSP requirement, everyone must keep their OEC cards current in order to patrol. In order to have a valid card, active patrollers must complete the current refresher prior to patrolling for the active year in the cycle. Inactive patrollers have more time.

When caring for wounds we should clean superficial wounds with sterile water (tap is ok if sterile isn't available). Deep wounds should be cleaned at the hospital. If definitive care is more than 90 minutes away, very dirty wounds can be carefully cleaned around the wound (soap and water) and gently irrigated with saline. Don't use cleansers, creams, ointments, gels, or other topicals without written protocols.

Checking your OEC-6 book and recent refreshers will give you the most up-to date information on what our standard of care and protocols are. If your patrol's medical director adds protocols specifically to your patrol, you'll receive additional training.

Looking forward, OEC-7 publishing is anticipated in about 2 years.

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QUICK UPDATE

VALID CARDS

It is a NSP requirement for active patrollers to keep their cards valid. Completing the yearly refresher in a timely manner ensures your card is valid. Inactive patrollers and alumni have up to three years to complete any delinquent refreshers.

WOUND CARE

Once bleeding is controlled, we clean superficial wounds with sterile water. Grossly contaminated wounds can be carefully cleaned if medical care is more than 90 minutes away. The hospital takes care of deep wound cleaning.

LOCAL PROTOCOL

Many areas have protocols that are a bit different than what OEC-6 allows us to do. If your area has some of those, they must be documented as a protocol and approved by your mountain's medical director.