

COMMON SYMBOLS & ABBREVIATIONS

Used in the Avalanche Field

Symbol	Term	Units
Alp	Alpine	
B	Non-planar Break (fracture character)	
BTL	Below Treeline	
CTVE	Compression Test Very Easy (#)	number taps
CTE	Compression Test Easy (#)	number taps
CTM	Compression Test Medium (#)	number taps
CTH	Compression Test Hard (#)	number taps
Dn(#)	How far down from surface of snowpack	cm
DT	Deep Tap Test (VE, E, M, H) (#)	number taps
E	Grain size	mm
ECT	Extended Column Test (VE, E, M, H) (#)	number taps
F	Grain form	
HN24	Height of new snow (daily)	cm
HNW	Water equivalent of new snow layer	mm
HS	Total height of snowpack	cm
HST	Storm Snow Height	cm
PC	Progressive Compression (fracture character)	
PF	Depth of foot penetration	cm
PS	Depth of ski penetration	cm
PST(##)	Propagation Saw Test (failure/length of column)	cm/cm
R	Snow Hardness index (resistance to penetration):	
	F Fist in glove	
	4F Four Fingers in glove	
	1F One Finger in glove	
	P Pencil, blunt end	
	K Knife blade	
	I Ice (too hard to insert knife blade)	
RB(#)	Rutschblock Test	scaled 1-7
RP	Resistant Planar (fracture character)	
S(#)	Rate of snow accumulation per hour	cm
SC	Sudden Collapse (fracture character)	
SH	Surface Hoar	
SP	Sudden Planar (fracture character)	
ST	Shovel Shear Test (VE, E, M, H) (#)	number taps
Ta	Temperature of air	oC
T10	Temperature of snow at 10 cm below surface	oC
TL	Treeline	