EO C290.03 – CONSTRUCT A SNOW CAVE

1. **Performance**: Construct a Snow Cave

2. **Conditions**:

   a. Given:

      (1) Shovel;

      (2) Groundsheet;

      (3) Supervision; and

      (4) Assistance as required.

   b. Denied: N/A.

   c. Environmental: Winter field setting during the day large enough to accommodate the entire group and the shelter construction.

3. **Standard**: In accordance with specified references and as a member of a group of no more than four, the cadet shall construct a snow cave by:

   a. selecting a site;

   b. constructing the snow cave; and

   c. disassembling the snow cave when the exercise is completed.

4. **Teaching Points**:

TP	Description	Method	Time	Refs
TP1	Identify factors to consider in selecting a site for a snow cave, to include: a. a hard snow drift; or b. a slope with a firm crust of snow on the opposite side of the wind; and c. avoiding a drift that is below a cornice or in an avalanche area.	Interactive Lecture	5 min	C3-002 (p. 256) C3-003 (p. 117)
TP2	Demonstrate appropriate site selection and construct a snow cave, to include: a. burrowing a small tunnel that is one metre into the lowest level of the chamber; b. clearing the chamber of snow at right angles to the tunnel; c. clearing the chamber of snow to a height comfortable for sitting; d. constructing the outside of the roof to be well arched without sharp angles, to provide maximum support; e. constructing a sleeping and sitting platform above the level of the entrance;	Demonstration	35 min	C3-002 (p. 256) C3-003 (p. 117)

Unofficial convenience copy of A-CR-CCP-802/PG-001, cached 2026-11-08 from https://app.cadets.gc.ca/cadet-publications/A-CR-CCP-802-PG-001/A-CR-CCP-802-PG-001.pdf.
Verify against the official publication.

TP	Description	Method	Time	Refs
	f. constructing a breathing hole in the roof of the snow cave; and g. constructing a door using a block of snow or a groundsheet. **Note:** Ensure cadets enter and observe the finished snow cave.			
TP3	Ensure cadets choose an appropriate site for construction of a snow cave and have cadets construct a snow cave following the directions in TP1 and TP2.	Performance	35 min	
TP4	Disassemble the snow caves when the exercise is completed.	Performance	5 min	

5. **Time**:

a.	Introduction / Conclusion:	10 min
b.	Interactive Lecture:	5 min
c.	Demonstration:	35 min
d.	Performance:	40 min
e.	Total:	90 min

6. **Substantiation**:

   a. An interactive lecture was chosen for TP1 to present basic material and give direction on procedures.

   b. Demonstration was chosen TP2 as it allows the instructor to explain and demonstrate the skill the cadet is expected to acquire.

   c. Performance was chosen TP3 and TP4 as it provides an opportunity for the cadets to practice building a snow cave under supervision.

7. **References**:

   a. C3-002 (ISBN 0-00-653140-7) Wiseman, J. (1999). *The SAS Survival Handbook.* Hammersmith, London: HarperCollinsPublishers.

   b. C3-003 1-896713-00-9 Tawrell, P. (1996). *Camping and Wilderness Survival: The Ultimate Outdoors Book.* Green Valley, ON: Falcon Distribution.

8. **Training Aids**: N/A.

9. **Learning Aids**:

   a. Shovel; and

   b. Groundsheet.

Unofficial convenience copy of A-CR-CCP-802/PG-001, cached 2026-11-08 from https://app.cadets.gc.ca/cadet-publications/A-CR-CCP-802-PG-001/A-CR-CCP-802-PG-001.pdf.
Verify against the official publication.

10. **Test Details**: N/A.

11. **Remarks**:

    a. Cadets will not sleep in the snow cave.

    b. Additional supervision is required during the construction of the snow cave.

Unofficial convenience copy of A-CR-CCP-802/PG-001, cached 2026-11-08 from https://app.cadets.gc.ca/cadet-publications/A-CR-CCP-802-PG-001/A-CR-CCP-802-PG-001.pdf.
Verify against the official publication.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Unofficial convenience copy of A-CR-CCP-802/PG-001, cached 2026-11-08 from https://app.cadets.gc.ca/cadet-publications/A-CR-CCP-802-PG-001/A-CR-CCP-802-PG-001.pdf.
Verify against the official publication.