

Level 1 Avalanche Course Schedule

Notes

This outline is for the Community Level 1 courses in Juneau. We begin with a classroom session on the evening of the first day, followed by four more days of field and classroom time. All field days have afternoon and evening classroom time after the field sessions; except for the last day, which wraps up right after the field session, without evening classroom time. We are working closely with the Eaglecrest ski area now to provide avalanche education for the community, so be sure to thank them for the classroom space and help in spreading the word!

It is a very thorough course that meets and exceeds the requirements set by the American Avalanche Association. Depending on site-specific transportation logistics, it runs 38 to 42 hours, as compared with the AAA minimum requirement of 24 hours. We use a longer format because we have found that people cannot absorb and retain the amount of information they need in a shorter course.

This format is intense, so be sure to start the course well-rested and clear your schedule so you have no distractions during it. Skim over the material in the course handouts on our Course Resources web page before hand; you won't have time to read them again until after the course.

The content outline below is a framework, not a fixed schedule. We always have to work with the weather and field conditions. We will juggle the components and timing to provide you the best course possible for the conditions we have.

Classroom sessions meet on the mezzanine level of the Eaglecrest ski area day lodge. Morning field sessions begin at 8:00 am. We will meet at the lodge end of the lower Eaglecrest parking lot. Afternoon classroom sessions begin at 3:30 to 4:00 pm, depending on how long it takes us to get back from the field, and will go until about 6:00 pm. We will take a dinner break, then evening classroom sessions are from 7:00 pm until 9:00 - 9:30 pm.

The most essential course requirement is to show up and participate! Be there on time and be ready to go; you have not completed the course and will not get your card if you are not there for any part of it. We will announce new times when we must make changes. It is your responsibility to pay attention for changes and updates.

We keep current handouts posted on the education > course handouts pages of the Alaska Avalanche Specialists website, akavalanches.com. Be sure to study the gear requirements in the Field Course Information sheets, and to at least skim all the Topic Handouts before the course. The handouts comprise a detailed text that we will follow closely.

You will need your own field gear including a sturdy mountain shovel, and a hand lens or loupe of at least 10x power for snow study. We have a limited supply of beacons and probes available for students to use. Be sure to make arrangements with us beforehand if you will be using ours.

We will bring Bruce Tremper's *Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain*, our fieldbooks, and clinometer cards for everyone. Let us know if you will be using our beacons and probes ahead of time so we bring enough. Contact us at 907-523-8900, or aascom@mac.com.

Day 1

Evening Classroom

Videos - Out Of Ophirica, Haines Burial
Introductions
Course Overview
Video - Know Before You Go
Rescue

Day 2

Rescue Field Session

Travel; climb to field area.

Rescue field session

Probing

Single beacon search

Multiple beacon search

Practice and Scenarios

Travel back.

Afternoon Classroom

Snowpack I - Mechanics and Weather
Terrain

Evening Classroom

Snowpack II - Metamorphism, How Snow Changes
Practical - Terrain Classification

Day 3

Snow Day 1 Field Session

Travel; climb to field area.

Field snow study

Stability 1 Observations

Stability 2 Slope and Traveling Tests

Stability 3 Snowpits, note taking for classroom session

Travel back.

Afternoon Classroom

Snowpack III - Stability Evaluation
Practical - Tiltboard

Evening Classroom

Human Factor I - Risk Management
Practical - Writing Field Observations; Mark gear for AK Block tests.

Day 4

Snow Day 2 Field Session

Travel; climb to field area.

Field snow study practical - coached stability evaluation and note-taking.

Travel back.

Afternoon Classroom

Human Factor II - Decision-making
Practical - Case Histories

Evening Classroom

Practical - Coached Small Group Field Observations Writeup

Practical - Decision-making

Day 5

Putting It All Together Field Session

Travel; climb to field area.

Longer field day of travel to field areas, practice, snowshoes/skis necessary.

Practical - small group routefinding, stability evaluation, risk management, decisionmaking.

Travel back.

After Field Session

Course Wrapup; no afternoon or evening classroom session.