

Level 1 avalanche course (4 day)

Day 1 and 2 Evening Classroom Sessions
Day 3 and 4 split between field and classroom

Day 1 Night Session: Classroom

- 1800 Introduction, goals, schedule
- 1820 Decision-making scenario... Sorting and Prioritizing Information
- 1850 Recipe for an Avalanche. Avalanche Triangle, and intro to the checklist
- 1915 Anatomy of an avalanche and the 7 Avalanche Problems
- 2015 Identifying Avalanche Terrain and Safe travel
- 2100 Done

Day 2 Night Session: Classroom

- 1800 Snow—How weak layers form on the snow surface
Snow—How weak layers form below the snow surface
- 1915 Weather—How it forms slabs, changes the existing snowpack and creates avalanche problems
- 1940 Human Factor and its role in decision-making, Human Factor tactics
- 2010 Tilt Board Demo (or videos of avalanches in motion)
- 2030 Plan for the next day's tours –
Gear—"What's in my pack..."
Interpreting the local avalanche forecast
Demo Tour Planning
Students plan for Saturday's tour in field groups
- 2100 Done

Day 3: Full day in field

- 0730 Meet at roadhead, Please Carpool!!
Briefing for the day using Pre-Trip Plan AAI Backcountry Avalanche Checklist. What to do if caught in an avalanche. Beacon use/rescue, recognizing avalanche terrain, safe travel, informal tests, ongoing snowpack/weather/avalanche observations, formal stability tests (CT, ECT), basic snow grain and layer identification
When approaching avalanche terrain--- use checklist to work thru a system of sorting/prioritizing information...
End of day debrief in small groups using checklist.
- 1630 Done

Day 4: AM Field, PM Class

- 0730 – 1300 Field: terrain analysis and route finding, informal stability tests and test pits
- 1400 Debrief from field session as 1 large group using checklist Post-Trip Discussion
Snow behavior, avalanche mechanics, and trigger points AD
- 1500 "The Skiers Checklist" and decision-making in the backcountry
- 1530 Avalanche Decision-Making Scenarios-- using the Checklist
- 1630 End of course review and debrief, evals
- 1700 Done

Note:

No backcountry gear needed for Thursday and Friday evening classroom sessions.