

AAI Level 2 Course Schedule

Day 1 – *Rescue, Documentation & Stability*

- 0800 Introductions, Goals for the course/schedule
0815 Review pre-test
0845 Intro to the 7 Avalanche Problems (Risk video)
0945 Season History—tracking the problems
1015 Avalanche Observations—Nomenclature and Documenting Observations
1045 Break
1100 Introduce AAI Backcountry Avalanche Checklist--- homework--- prep for pre-trip briefing
1130 Avalanche Terrain— Avalanche Runout Angles
1215 Avalanche Rescue Overview
1245 Head into the field
- weather and avalanche briefing (Checklist)
- range/function check
- organizing an avalanche rescue
- beacon practice – singles, doubles, and multi-beacon (shallow and deep)
- scenarios with debriefs
1700 Done
Home work *Case Study: ‘Companion rescue’*
Prep for am briefing: AAI Backcountry Avalanche Checklist

Day 2 - *Snowpack*

- 0730 Meet at Field Trailhead
- Pre-Trip Briefing using AAI Checklist Pre-Trip Plan
- study pit demonstration (SWAG 2.5)
- Study pit practice
-Test + pits – getting the info efficiently (SWAG 2.6 and 2.7)
1300 Meet at Classroom
Review Companion Rescue Exercise
Snow Metamorphism--- Understanding the problems
Surface conditions: surface hoar – strength changes over time, crusts
Faceting and Near-Surface Faceting
Rounding and melt-freeze metamorphism
Wet snow and isothermal snowpacks
Stability Wheel--- Strength, Structure, Propagation Potential
Intro to Avalanche Forecasting and Backcountry Decision Making
Planning for next day’s tour – forecast, route options, tour plans
Done
1730 Plot Snow Profiles from today
Home work

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Day 3 – *Terrain*

- 0730 Meet at pre-arranged meeting area
Pre-Trip Briefing using AAI Checklist Pre-Trip Plan
- Ongoing snowpack & terrain analysis
 - Group management – uphill and down-guiding
 - Stability analysis - forecasting based upon today's nowcast
 - Decision making using Checklist as a tool for discussion
 - Debrief using Checklist Post-Trip Discussion

1630 Done

Home *Avalanche Problem Forecasting Worksheet*

work *Prep for AM Pre-Trip Briefing (Checklist)*

Day 4 – *Mountain Weather, Mechanics, and Decision-Making*

- 0730 Meet at Field Trailhead
- Pre-Trip Briefing using AAI Checklist Pre-Trip Plan/Avalanche Problem Worksheet
 - Participant-led route-finding and snowpack evaluation
- 1230 Meet at Classroom— Debrief today's tour as 1 large group-- Checklist
- 1300 Avalanche Problem Forecasting Worksheet completion in groups
Slab mechanics and Spatial Variability—7 Avalanche Problems Over Time and Space
Mountain Weather - Orographic influences
Case Study/Accident Review (Darby Canyon)
Human Factor – *Observations, Traps, Tactics*
Test - review as a group
Debrief
- 1730 Evals
- 1800 Done

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Level 2 Course Prerequisites

- 24 hour level 1 course that meets AAA guidelines
- Pit and transceiver skills practiced prior to the start of the course
- At least one season between Level 1 and Level 2 course

Required Course Equipment

Field notebook

SWAG

Beacon, Probe, Shovel, and snow saw

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