

Level 2 Avalanche Course Schedule

Notes

This outline is for the Juneau Community Level 2 courses. It begins with a classroom session on the evening of the first day, followed by four full 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 with an afternoon session, without the 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 about 40 to 44 hours, as compared with the AAA minimum requirement of 32 hours. We use a longer format because we have found that people cannot absorb and retain the amount of information they need from 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 ready to go; you have not completed the course and will not get your card if you are not there. 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 Resources pages of the Alaska Avalanche Specialists website, akavalanches.com. Be sure to study the gear requirements in the Field Course Information sheets, and to read 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*, the American Avalanche Association's *Snow, Weather, and Avalanches: Observational Guidelines for Avalanche Programs in the United States* ("SWAG"), 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.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Evening Classroom

Introductions
Overview
Rescue for Leaders
Forecasting Exercise

Day 2

Rescue Field Session

Travel; climb to field area.
Rescue for Leaders:
 Review & Update
 Flux Line Mapping
 Teaching Beacon Search
 Probe Line Setup
 Timed Practices
 Deep & Multiple Beacons
 Leadership & Organization
 Advanced Drills & Scenarios.
Set Up Experiments:
 String Site
 Creep Columns
 Baseline Profiles

Travel back.

Afternoon Classroom

Mountain Weather
Forecasting Exercise
Dinner break.

Evening Classroom

Snowpack I- Mechanics, Crack Propagation & Fracture Initiation
Note-keeping Practical; Mark Gear for AK Blocks
Special Topics

Day 3

Snow Study Field Session

Travel; climb to field area.
Snow Experiments as Conditions Merit:
 Dye Percolation Tests
 Daily Creep & Settlement Experiments
Field Snow Study Techniques & Investigations:
 Review of Level 1 Techniques
 Introduction of Level 2 Techniques

Stability 1 Observations
Stability 2 Slope and Traveling Tests
Stability 3 Snowpits, note taking for classroom session

Travel back.

Afternoon Classroom

Forecasting Exercise
Snowpack II - Metamorphism for Avalanche Forecasting
Dinner break.

Evening Classroom

Snowpack III - Advanced Stability Evaluation
Note-keeping Practical
Problem Layers and Snowpacks

Day 4

Risk Management Field Session

Travel; climb to field area.

Risk Management Problems:

Route-finding

Stability Evaluation

Terrain Choices, Risk Management & Decision-making

This field day will run long, with a shorter or optional afternoon session, depending on conditions; travel back.

Afternoon Classroom

Forecasting Exercise
Dinner break.

Evening Classroom

Human Factor
Glaciers & Ice Avalanches

Day 5

Snow Science & Risk Management Field Session

Travel; climb to field area.

Snow Science Experiments:

Record Results

String Site Profiles

Creep Column Results

Skill Development:

Belayed Tests & Cornices

Big Rescue Scenario

Crystal Identification

Travel back

Afternoon Classroom

Final Forecasting Exercise
Advanced Terrain - Steeps & Sluff Management
Snow Crystal Identification
Continuing Education
Course cards; wrapup session/quiz game