

Level 1 Avalanche Course

Goal: To provide a fundamental understanding of avalanches, by examining snowpack, weather, terrain, and human factors associated with avalanche formation and triggering.

Day 1

0800 Introduction - goals, and schedule
0820 Why avalanche education is important - "Know Before You Go"
0840 Decision making scenario
0910 Avalanche Types and Nomenclature
0930 Terrain
1030 Break
1040 Snow - Formation above the snow surface, Changes below the surface
1110 Snow - Changes on the surface
1140 Human Factor and its role in decision making
1230 Beacon Intro
1245 Break for lunch and travel to Grand Targhee
1345 FIELD SESSION – Beacon use/rescue
1700 Done for the day

Day 2

0730 FIELD SESSION
Beacon function check, informal and formal stability tests, further beacon practice, ongoing snowpack/avalanche observations, avalanche nomenclature, route finding and safe travel protocols, what to do if caught in an avalanche, and decision making in avalanche terrain – Red, Yellow, Green system and ALPTRUTH
1700 Done for the day

SUNDAY, January 18 – AM Field Session/PM Classes

0730 FIELD SESSION
Beacon range check, practice terrain assessment, snow observations, pit assessment, and decision making
1200 End Field Session
1330 CLASSROOM SESSION
Snow behavior, avalanche mechanics, and deficit zones
1430 Backcountry avalanche forecasting and decision making
1500 Decision making scenarios
1615 Formal review, debrief, and questions
1645 Evaluations
1700 Course finishes