

American Avalanche Institute Level 3 Course for Guides

Day 1

0730 Goals, Intro's, morning weather and avalanche briefing
0800 Introduce study plot and expectations
0830 Pre-test review
0900 Dissecting avalanche trends from this season's weather history
1000 Grain ID Quiz
1030 Snow metamorphism and bonding, surface hoar
1135 Crusts
1200 New developments in rescue technology and techniques
1245 End Class Session
1330 Field: Layer identification revisited, Beacon Practice (deep, multiple) and rescue scenarios - Philips Pass RH
1800 Done for the day
Homework: Review pages 35 and 36 (Figures 2.8 and 2.9 of the SWAG)

Day 2

0715 Study Plot Observations - students
0730 Morning weather and avalanche briefing - student
0800-0905 Fracture Mechanics: Snow strength, energy, and structure and how they relate to stability tests
0915 Slab properties and their affect on avalanche triggering
1030 End of Class Session #1
1100 Field: full data pits
1515 End of Field Session
1600 Meet at Classroom
DOT avalanche forecasting and control program
1715 Decision traps of experienced recreationists
1745 Stability sheets, route plans
1830 Done for the day
Homework: stability analysis worksheet & route plan for tomorrow

Day 3

0730 Field Session
Pre-trip plans & stability forecast
Client/group management in avalanche terrain
Vegetation and avalanche history, Test + pits and stability analysis
Debrief in field
1700 Stability analysis & summary
1745 Done for the day
Homework: stability analysis worksheet & route plan for tomorrow

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Day 4

Friday, February 5, 2010

- 0730 Field Session- test + pits and terrain management.
Debrief in field
- 1230 Field session ends
- 1315 Study Plot Observations - students (if not done at 0700)
- 1330 Meet at Classroom
Stability analysis & summary
- 1400 Decision Making - A model for changing conditions
- 1420-1450 Litigation and liability for guides: update
- 1500-1530 Repeated Mistakes of Avalanche pros and the role of intuition in forecasting
- 1530-1545 Break
- 1545-1630 Persistent/Deep Slab forecasting
- 1640-1800 Forecasting methodology and scenario - June Mountain or Valdez
- 1800 Submit field books & route plans for evaluation – done for the day
Homework: stability analysis worksheet & route plan for tomorrow

Day 5

- 0800 Field Session: Togwotee Pass - Altitude effects on snowpack variability, Continental snowpack evaluation
Debrief in field
- 1315 Depart for classroom session
- 1430 Study Plot Observations - students (if not done at 0615!!!)
- 1445 Stability Round Table
- 1515 Accident analysis
- 1730 Written Exam
- 1830 Course adjourns - hand out evals
Homework: stability analysis worksheet & route plan for tomorrow

Day 6

- 0730 Meet at Road Head
- 0800 Timed transceiver searches - 3 beacons in 7 minutes
Full data pit - timed - concurrent with beacon searches
- 1100 Tour – terrain analysis, group management, etc. (tour to location that operational forecast scenario will be located)
End of Tour - depart for classroom
- 1430
- 1500 Study Plot Observations - students
- 1515 Issuing an Operational stability forecast
- 1645 Debrief
- 1730 Done

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	Total Time (Travel and Break Time)	Field / Class Time	Estimated Homework Time	Total Learning Time
Pre-Course	0 (0)	0 / 0	2	2
Day 0	10.5 (0.75)	6/3.25	0	9.25
Day 1	11.25 (1.5)	4.5 / 4	2.0	11.75
Day 2	10 (1.75)	3.25 / 5	2.0	9.75
Day 3	9.75 (0)	9 / 0.75	2.0	11.25
Day 4	10.5 (1)	5 / 4.5	2.0	11
Day 5	10 (1.75)	5 / 3.25	0	8.25
Day 6	10 (0.75)	7 / 2.25	0	9.25
TOTAL	59.75 (6.25)	33.75 / 19.75	8.0	61.5
Ratio of Field to Class Time 63% / 37%				

Need to recalculate this, but it is close.

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