

Level 2 Avalanche SAMPLE Course Schedule

Sponsored by Yöstmark Backcountry Tours

Focus areas:

Advanced rescue skills
Focused stability assessment and forecasting
Becoming accurate, efficient, and quick with skills and decision-making
Terrain assessment and group management

Running themes:

Pattern Recognition
Acknowledge Uncertainty, Maintain Margin
Pause for Integration
Hypothesis Testing
Systems Thinking

Day 1 - Rescue, Documentation, & Stability

- 0800 Meet at City Center in Driggs, Idaho - Goals for the course/schedule
Season History
- 0850 Documentation - Profiles
- 0900 Documenting field observations - stability rose
- 0915 Avalanche Observations - documentation
- 0930 Looking closer at terrain: ATES classification system and other topics
- 1000 North American Avalanche Hazard Index/ reading, interpreting, and formulating a forecast
- 1115 Human factors/traps/decision-making. **Case study** and discussion/accident analysis/ 20/40 hindsight
- 1200 Done
- 1330 Meet at Teton Canyon for rescue topics
Beacon range and function checks
Multiple burials/ shoveling/ scenarios and leadership
- 1700 Done

HOMEWORK

Rescue articles from TAR- see Dropbox and handouts Read Common Problems articles

Day 2- Avalanche Problems and Snowpack 0800 Meet at Victor ice rink / review wx and avalanche fx 0830 Short tour/ test + pits - getting the info fast

- 1330 Meet at City Center Driggs
Summary of conditions
- 1400 Ephemeral problems
- 1445 Persistent problems
- 1545 Wet snow and isothermal snowpacks- 1
- 1630 Runout and alpha angle/ map exercise

HOMEWORK Plot profiles from the day

Day 3

0800 Meet @ Victor ice rink/ review wx and avalanche fx

Depart for field / Full day tour

- Ongoing snowpack & terrain analysis
- Cornice evaluation
- Additional transceiver practice as needed
- Group management - uphill and down-guiding

Debriefing: did you make the right calls? Where were you the most vulnerable?

Homework

Case study TBD

Day 4 - Mountain Weather, Mechanics, and Wrap-up

- 0800 Meet at location TBD
- Wx and av briefing
 - Participant-led route finding and snowpack evaluation
- 1330 Return to Driggs - Driggs City Center classroom
- 1330 Case study-students
- 1415 Mountain Weather
- 1500 Slab mechanics
- 1620 Test - review as a group-
- 1650 Evals
- 1700 Done