



avalanche.ca

Your source for avalanche information



Government of Alberta



If an avalanche accident happens...

IT'S UP TO YOU.



YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO FOR HELP.

Every person in your party needs to have the right rescue equipment and know how to use it. Learn more about travelling in avalanche terrain. Take a course and check out avalanche.ca

photo: Greg Palfinger

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT



Every person in your group needs to have a **transceiver**, **probe** and **shovel** and everyone needs to take the time to practice searching.

Consider buying an **avalanche balloon pack**. If you're caught in an avalanche, triggering the airbags to inflate will help you stay on top of the snow.

Common Avalanche Misconceptions

"My friends will dig me out."

Maybe. But they've got to be alive and be trained to find you.

"I'm following tracks, so it must be ok."

First tracks may not trigger a slide, and the conditions may have changed since those tracks were made. Besides, you might be following someone who is not aware of the current avalanche danger.

"But, I've got a transceiver on me."

A transceiver is not a force field — it doesn't protect you from avalanches. Transceivers improve your chances of survival if you know how to use it, but only about a third of completely buried people are found alive. Transceivers do make body recovery easier, though.

"I've ridden here for years and never seen it slide."

Don't kid yourself. Snow stability changes—from season to season, day to day, even minute to minute.

photo: Jeremy Hanke



EXPERIENCE MORE. **BE SAFE.**



Become **Avalanche Trained.**

If you ride in the backcountry **you need to:**

- ✓ **Get the gear.**
- ✓ **Get the training.**
- ✓ **Read the bulletin.**



WHAT CAUSES AVALANCHES?

YOU. Over 90% of recreational avalanche fatalities are triggered by the people involved.

AST
1

AST
2

Avalanche safety training courses equip you to get the most out of your mountain snowmobiling experience.

Knowledge, planning and carrying the proper safety equipment are the keys to fully experiencing Canada's spectacular mountain terrain.

AVALANCHE COURSES

Course	Class	Field
Avalanche Skills Training 1 (AST 1)	7 hrs	1 day
Avalanche Skills Training 2 (AST 2)	9.5 hrs	3 days

More course information at avalanche.ca

WHAT CAN YOU DO? PREPARE.

Educate Yourself

Get avalanche training. For a list of courses near you, go to avalanche.ca. This pamphlet does not prepare you to travel in avalanche terrain!

Plan Your Trip

Select a route that's appropriate for the current avalanche conditions.

Know Your Riding Group

Choose people with avalanche training and respect for mountain hazards.

Keep Your Options Open

Be willing to turn around if you or anyone in your party has concerns about the route or conditions.

Increase Your Odds

Use decision support tools such as the Avaluator to help you make good choices in avalanche country.

Be Ready

Carry equipment for self-rescue and know how to use it. Have a plan!

REDUCE YOUR RISKS.

KNOW THE AVALANCHE CONDITIONS

Choose your destination after checking the daily avalanche bulletin at avalanche.ca or calling toll free at 1-800-667-1105.

RECOGNIZE AVALANCHE TERRAIN

Can you identify when you or your group is at risk for an avalanche? Most avalanches start on slopes of between 30-45 degrees, but be aware that some large ones can easily run out on to much flatter terrain. Be careful where you park and never park in runout zones.

BE AWARE

Changes in snow conditions and temperature can indicate increasing avalanche hazard. Also, pay attention to what's going on above you. The weather at the ridge tops may be creating conditions far different from those in the valley bottom.

READ THE SIGNS

Recent avalanche activity, blowing snow, significant amounts of new snow (20cm or more) or snow falling at a rate of more than 2cm/hr all indicate increasing avalanche hazard. Using the Avaluator will help you identify the conditions associated with past avalanche accidents.

STAY FOCUSED

Most avalanche accidents happen when the weather is good. Sunny skies and great snow can be a deadly combination. Don't let group dynamics lure you into a bad situation and remember to have one on the hill at a time.



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