



HATCHER PASS AVALANCHE RESCUE WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The Alaska Avalanche School is a non-profit organization created for the purpose of promoting public safety in and around the mountain environment through education, research, publishing, and consulting. You have our commitment that we'll provide you with the highest quality of training possible. Please read the following information carefully. We look forward to your participation in the upcoming Avalanche Rescue Workshop.

DETAILS:

Cost of the Workshop: \$95 Per Person

Workshop Duration: 1 Full Day

Tuition Includes: Instruction

Tuition Does Not Include: Round trip transportation to and from the class-site, food and water for the duration of the workshop, all personal gear and clothing (see the Equipment List for more information).

WORKSHOP CURRICULUM:

This workshop is geared towards skiers, boarders, climbers, and other backcountry enthusiasts and is an intensive, hands-on workshop. The goal of this workshop is to provide students with the ability to safely and effectively locate and rescue backcountry travelers who have been caught in an avalanche. The full range of rescue skills will be practiced. We will start with the nuts and bolts of how to use your beacon on single, and multiple burials. Students will be split into groups, and during the workshop all groups will get an opportunity to practice with the help of their instructor. In addition full rescue scenarios will be performed with an opportunity to practice the leadership, and communication required of a successful avalanche rescue.

Program curriculum consists of:

Group rescue techniques

Beacon Use

Beacon Park practice (EasySearcher) for multiple beacon searches

Leadership and Communication Skills pertaining to beacon searches and rescue scenarios

Rescue Scenarios

PRE-REQUISITES:

There are no pre-requisites for students interested in participating in this program.

RISK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT / WAIVER FORM:

While the Alaska Avalanche School's 30 year track record in safety has been exceptional, a reflection of the times is that each field program participant must sign a detailed waiver of liability. Signing the AAS waiver form means that you acknowledge the inherent risks associated with the activities you will be undertaking, accept responsibility for your actions, and waive any claim for damages against the Alaska Avalanche School and its staff for accidents suffered while participating in the workshop. AAS will send waiver forms to participants prior to the program. **Please read, and sign the form and bring to the first day of the program.**

If you are a minor you must have the Waiver signed by your legal guardian before you arrive at the workshop. If you do not wish to sign the waiver, your tuition will be refunded less the \$50 processing fee, (as long as you notify us at least 14 days prior to the start of the program) and you will not be permitted to attend the workshop. Please read the registration and cancellation policies on the AAS registration form for more information and details regarding our policies.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE: Pre-registration check-in will take place from 8:45-9:25 am. The workshop will run from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Bring a lunch, and plan to be outside most of the day. *Please be prompt and ready for a full day of avalanche curriculum.*

WORKSHOP LOCATION: Registration and one hour of classroom training will be held in the Independence Mine State Historical Park Visitor Center located at 3,200 feet on the Palmer side of Hatcher Pass in the Talkeetna Mountains. To get

there, head east from Palmer on the Glenn Highway and then turn left (north) onto Fishhook Road. This intersection is approximately 1 mile east of Palmer and is clearly signed. *Important note: The road over Hatcher Pass from Willow is closed in the winter.* The Visitor Center is located at the end of Fishhook Road, about 19 miles from the highway. It is roughly 5 miles past the Mother Lode Lodge (where there is a big switchback in the road) and 1 mile past the Hatcher Pass Lodge (A-frames). You will need to ski, snowshoe or walk the trail the last mile to the visitor center. This takes most folks about 30 minutes or so. Rescue practice sessions will be held in the surrounding area at the Independence Mine Visitor Center.

PARKING: Since January 1, 2005, an Alaska State Park parking fee has been in affect at Hatcher Pass. This fee has been waived for workshop participants. Please place this letter on the left hand side of your dashboard as proof of involvement with this workshop.

PARTICIPANT GEAR REQUIREMENTS: Plan to bring all the necessary clothing and equipment you require to travel a short distance over snow and stay outside all day in foul weather. A pair of snowshoes, or skis with climbing skins, will be necessary to enable you to get around during the practice secessions. Every participant **MUST** have a shovel (small, lightweight grain-scoop type), rescue transceiver (beacon), and an avalanche probe. If you don't have a transceiver you **MUST** let us know at least 1 week prior to the workshop start date so we can plan an extra beacon for you to rent. We have limited numbers of rental beacons and probes, so try to borrow equipment from a friend if possible. Old single American frequency beacons such as the Ramer Echo series are no longer acceptable because they are not compatible with the 457 khz beacons now on the market. Dual frequency beacons such as the Ortovox F-2 are also obsolete. You should have a single 457 khz (international) frequency beacon (all beacons currently available are on this frequency). We sell beacons (DTS Tracker), probes (8' and 10') and shovels at very good prices.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Student tuition alone does not cover the total workshop cost. Funding for these programs is derived from individual donations, in-kind contributions, and program receipts from educational workshops. If you desire to contribute to the school we graciously accept donations of monetary value as well as gear that can be put towards our rental program.

Our goal at the Alaska Avalanche School is to provide you with the best possible opportunity for learning about avalanche hazard evaluation in the backcountry.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 907-345-0878 or email: AlaskaAvalanche@mac.com.

We look forward to seeing you in the mountains!