



## AVALANCHE REFRESHER 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. What you learn during the workshop will depend upon how hard you work during and prior to the course. We'll provide you with the opportunity, the tools, and the encouragement. The rest is up to you. Please read the following information carefully.

### **DETAILS:**

Cost of the Course: \$145.00 Per Person

Course Duration: 1 Evening Class, 1 Full Day in the Field

Tuition Includes: Instruction, and instructional handouts.

Tuition Does Not Include: Round trip transportation to and from the class-site, "Snow Sense" by Fesler & Fredston, food and water for the duration of the course, all personal gear and clothing (see the Equipment List for more information).

Required Reading: "Snow Sense" by Jill Fredston & Doug Fesler

Recommended Reading: "Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain" by Bruce Tremper

### **WORKSHOP CURRICULUM:**

The focus of this day and a half workshop is to review the Avalanche Level 1 Course curriculum. This program is meant for backcountry enthusiasts that have received avalanche safety training and who are not interested in repeating the full level 1 course. Come with a clear picture of what you remember from the level one course you participated in and what you would like to work on or review. Please re-read *Snow Sense*, by Fredston & Fessler, to get your mind thinking snow again. Also, read any chapters in Bruce Tremper's book, *Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain*, that you can. Make a list of any questions you have. Those who really study their pre-course material before the workshop can expect to absorb more during the workshop than those who haven't. We also recommend that you track the weather in Turnagain Pass as closely as possible in the week prior to the workshop.

#### Program curriculum consists of:

Group rescue techniques

Beacon use

Beacon Park practice (EasySearcher) for multiple beacon searches

Terrain analysis

Snow stability evaluation

Decision making

Route selection

Safe travel procedures

### **PRE-REQUISITES:**

All participants must have participated in a previous level 1 avalanche course or equivalent, and must have read "Snow Sense" by Fesler and Fredston.

### **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 course 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 course. **Please read, and sign the form and bring to the first day of the course.**

*If you are a minor you must have the Waiver signed by your legal guardian before you arrive at the course. 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 course) 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 LOCATION:** The first day of this program is the lecture and classroom portion. This will be held in Girdwood at the Chugach National Forest Ranger Station.

Directions: To get to the Chugach National Forest Ranger Station, take the Seward Highway to the Alyeska Highway. Once on the Alyeska Highway travel 300 yards and take the first left. There is a U.S. Forest Service sign at the turn.

The second day of the program will be the hands on portion. The field session will be held in Turnagain Pass. We will decide on Friday night where to meet the next morning.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

*Bunkhouse at the Ranger Station:* The USFS is good to AAS and offer's their heated bunkhouse in Girdwood to AAS program participants. If you'd rather not drive to and from Girdwood on Friday night and Saturday morning you can stay at the Forest Service Bunkhouse for a small fee. There is limited space so if you're interested in reserving a bed please let us know as soon as possible.

*Camping:* There is no outside camping allowed at the Visitor Center.

*Alyeska Hostel:* Another economical accommodation option is the Alyeska Hostel in Girdwood, which has bunks, and showers available for a reasonable fee. Call 907-783-2222 for more information or to make reservations.

*Other:* There are many other accommodation options in Girdwood such as the Alyeska Prince Hotel: 907-754-2111, or you can check with Alyeska Accommodations: 907-783-2000.

**WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:** Registration check-in will take place on Friday evening, from 5:30-5:55 pm. The workshop will start PROMPTLY at 6:00 pm. You are welcome to bring your dinner along if you wish, but please be aware we have no microwave or cooking stoves available. We will have about 3 hours of classroom training that evening followed by a full field day on Saturday. Plan to be at the field location around 9:00 am on Saturday.

**PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS AND EQUIPMENT:**

Plan to bring all the necessary clothing and equipment you require to stay outside all day in foul weather while traveling uphill and down through variable terrain and changing snow conditions. For more information on participant equipment requirements please review the course equipment handout.

**TO REGISTER FOR A COURSE:**

If you have not already registered for a course and wish to, please call the AAS office to check availability. You can either register by phone or print off the registration form from the AAS Website and send it into the AAS office via post, or fax.

**AAS CANCELLATION, REFUND, AND TRANSFER POLICIES:**

*We highly encourage all participants to review the Cancellation, Refund, and Transfer Policies found on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the AAS Registration form prior to enrollment.*

*Cancellation Insurance:* If for any reason you anticipate a cancellation please consider cancellation insurance. A few recommendations include: TravelEx: [www.travelex-insurance.com](http://www.travelex-insurance.com) and Travel Guard: [www.travelguard.com](http://www.travelguard.com)

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Student tuition alone does not cover the total course 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](mailto:AlaskaAvalanche@mac.com).

We look forward to seeing you in the mountains!