



## SNOWMOBILERS AVALANCHE HAZARD EVALUATION TURNAGAIN PASS COURSE 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: \$275.00 Per Person

Course Duration: 2 Days

Tuition Includes: Instruction, and instructional handouts.

Tuition Does Not Include: Round trip transportation to and from the class-site, appropriate snowmobile and associated gear/equipment, "Snow Sense" by Fesler & Fredston, food 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

### COURSE CURRICULUM:

This course is geared towards snowmobilers and is an intensive, hands-on course. Snowmobilers have a unique avalanche hazard evaluation and rescue problem. Assessing the terrain and snowpack requires different observational skills than when afoot. If there is an avalanche, the escape and rescue strategies are different as well. During this course ride with experienced mountain professionals with search and rescue experience to prepare for a your own safer riding experience.

Program curriculum consists of:

- Group rescue techniques
- Beacon use and practice
- Terrain analysis
- Snow stability evaluation
- Decision making
- Route selection
- Safe travel procedures

### PRE-REQUISITES:

Students are required to read "Snow Sense" by Fredston & Fesler prior to the course start date.

There is a pre-test that is sent to course participants upon enrollment, which is based on the required reading. Those who thoroughly study their pre-course material before the workshop can expect to absorb more during the course. Participants must be able to ride in variable terrain and should be prepared to remain outdoors in foul weather all day. We also recommend that you track the weather in Turnagain Arm as closely as possible in the weeks prior to the course and get out and travel a bit with the sled you will be using for the course so there are no surprises.

### 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.

#### **COURSES HELD IN PORTAGE AND TURNAGAIN ARM:**

*Please keep your dogs at home during the course!*

The classroom portion of the course will take place in Portage at the Alaska Snow Safari building. Field portions of this course will be held in the Turnagain Arm at a location chosen each morning.

*Directions:* To get to Alaska Snow Safaris, take the Seward Highway south to Portage. The Snow Safari building is on the left (east) side of the highway just south of the Portage/Wittier turnoff. Field portions of this course will be held in the Turnagain Arm. There is additional parking across the street if necessary.

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Since this course is intense, and consists of long days we strongly encourage participants from Anchorage to allow plenty of time to commute. If possible stay in Girdwood and do not to commute. If need be beg a friend in Girdwood for floor space! Below are a few accommodation options.

*Alyeska Hostel:* An 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.

#### **FOOD:**

Students are responsible for all of their food and water for the duration of the course.

Lunches will be in the field so plan your menu accordingly. You might also want to bring some snack food to keep your stomach in check between the end of each day's field session and when we break for dinner.

#### **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

*The First Day of the Course:* **Everyone should be in the classroom ready to go at 7:59 am on this morning since we will start on time and if you're late, you will miss important information.** Registration check-in will take place from 8 to 8:25 am. The course curriculum will start PROMPTLY at 8:30 am. We'll have a couple of hours of classroom session followed by field sessions until 5 pm. We'll then break for dinner and the night.

*The Second day of the Course:* This day will start promptly at 8:00 am will run very similarly to the first with the exception of the registration. On the last day of the course, we will end by 6 pm.

#### **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 through variable terrain and 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)

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!