



HATCHER PASS AVALANCHE FIELD 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 Field Workshop.

DETAILS:

Cost of the Workshop: FREE

Workshop Duration: 4 Hours

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

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 you will not be permitted to attend the workshop.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE: This workshop is scheduled to start at 10:00 AM and end at 2:00 PM. Please plan to meet at 9:45 AM for an early check in. Be prepared to be outside for the duration of the workshop.

WORKSHOP LOCATION: This program will take place on the Palmer side of Hatcher Pass. Plan to meet at the far end (uphill side) of the Hatcher Pass parking lot at 9:45 AM. There will be an Alaska Avalanche School sign which will indicate the meeting site.

Directions: To get to Hatcher Pass, 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 Hatcher Pass parking lot is located at approximately 18 miles from the Glenn

Highway. This is roughly 4 miles past the Mother Lode Lodge (where there is a big switchback in the road).

*Note**: It is possible that if a storm closes the lower road prior to the course, we may have to cancel the course or change our location. If possible, plan on driving a 4-wheel drive and/or throw a set of chains into your vehicle.

Parking: Since January 1, 2005, there has been an Alaska State Park parking fee for 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 in foul weather. 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 3 days prior to the workshop start date so we can plan an extra beacon for you to use. 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:

Funding for these programs is derived from a grant awarded from the State of Alaska. The purpose of this grant is to provide avalanche awareness education to Alaskan backcountry travelers.

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!