

United States Avalanche Danger Descriptors

Danger Level (& Color)	Avalanche Probability and Avalanche Trigger	Degree and Distribution of Avalanche Danger	Recommended Action in the Backcountry
... <i>WHAT</i> <i>WHY</i> <i>WHERE</i> ...	<i>WHAT TO DO</i> ...
LOW (green)	Natural avalanches very unlikely. Human triggered avalanches unlikely.	Generally stable snow. Isolated areas of instability.	Travel is generally safe. Normal caution is advised.
MODERATE (yellow)	Natural avalanches unlikely. Human triggered avalanches <u>possible</u> .	Unstable slabs <u>possible</u> on steep terrain.	Use caution in steeper terrain on certain aspects (defined in accompanying statement).
MODERATE TO HIGH (orange)	Natural avalanches possible. Human triggered avalanches <u>probable</u> .	Unstable slabs <u>probable</u> on steep terrain.	Be increasingly cautious in steeper terrain.
HIGH (red)	Natural and human triggered avalanches <u>likely</u> .	Unstable slabs <u>likely</u> on a variety of aspects and slope angles.	Travel in avalanche terrain is not recommended. Safest travel on windward ridges of lower angle slopes without steeper terrain above.
EXTREME (black)	Widespread natural or human triggered avalanches <u>certain</u> .	Extremely unstable slabs <u>certain</u> on most aspects and slope angles. Large, destructive avalanches possible.	Travel in avalanche terrain should be avoided and travel confined to low angle terrain well away from avalanche path run-outs.

AVALANCHE SAFETY BASICS

Avalanches don't happen by accident, and most human involvement is a matter of choice, not chance. Most avalanche accidents are caused by slab avalanches which are triggered by the victim or a member of the victim's party. However, any avalanche may cause injury or death and even small slides may be dangerous. Hence, always practice safe route finding skills, be aware of changing conditions, and carry avalanche rescue gear. Learn and apply avalanche terrain analysis and snow stability evaluation techniques to help minimize your risk. Remember that avalanche danger rating levels are only general guidelines. Distinctions between geographic areas, elevations, slope aspects and slope angles are approximate and transition zones between dangers exist. No matter what the current avalanche danger there are avalanche-safe areas in the mountains.

Telephone Number for Local Avalanche Information: _____

Internet Cyberspace Snow & Avalanche website: <http://www.csac.org>

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US Avalanche Information Telephone Numbers

California

- Lake Tahoe/Donner Summit (Truckee) • 916 - 587 - 2158
- Central-Eastern Sierra (Mammoth) • 619 - 934 - 6611

Colorado

- Denver/Boulder • 303 - 275 - 5360
- Fort Collins • 970 - 482 - 0457
- Summit County • 970 - 668 - 0600
- Colorado Springs • 719 - 520 - 0020
- Vail • 970 - 827 - 5687
- Aspen • 970 - 920 - 1664
- Durango • 970 - 247 - 8187

Idaho

- Smokey/Sawtooth/Pioneer(Ketchum) • 208 - 622 - 8027
- Central Idaho • 208 - 788 - 1200 ext 8027

Montana

- NW Montana Rockies (Whitefish) • 406 - 257 - 8606
- South Central (Bozeman) • 406 - 587 - 6981
- Southern (Cooke City) • 406 - 838 - 2341
- Southern (West Yellowstone) • 406 - 646 - 7912

Oregon

- S Wash/ Mt Hood (Portland) • 503 - 326 - 2400

Utah

- Sundance/Timpanogos (Provo) • 801 - 374 - 9770
- Tri-Canyon (Salt Lake City) • 801 - 364 - 1581
- Park City Area • 801 - 649 - 2250
- Mt Ogden + South (Ogden) • 801 - 621 - 2362
- North Wasatch (Logan) • 801 - 797 - 4146
- LaSal Mtns (Moab) • 801 - 259 - 7669

Washington

- Cascades/Olympics (Seattle) • 206 - 526 - 6677

Wyoming

- Teton/WindRivers (Teton Village) • 307 - 733 - 2664

Website - CSAC

- <http://www.csac.org>

online avalanche bulletins - US, Canada & International

Other Contact Numbers

Rescue Dynamics

- 403 - 461 - 5040

(avalanche, climbing & skiing courses - Canadian Rockies)

Website - Rescue Dynamics

- <http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/resqdyn/>