



Avalanche Danger Level Descriptors

United States

www.avalanche-center.org

Descriptor	Probability of Avalanches Natural and Man-Made	Terrain Considerations	Decision Making Considerations
LOW (green)	Natural - Very Unlikely Human Triggered - Unlikely	Generally stable, but isolated areas of instability are possible	Generally safe. But remember to always use caution and to use safe travel practices.
MODERATE (yellow)	Natural - Unlikely Human Triggered - Possible	Areas of instability are possible on steep terrain	Use extra caution on certain aspects and/or slope angles as described in the current bulletin.
CONSIDERABLE (orange)	Natural - Possible Human Triggered - Probable	Areas of instability are probable on steep terrain	Be extra cautious in steep terrain, consider avoiding areas of highest hazard as described in the current bulletin.
HIGH (red)	Natural - Likely Human Triggered - Likely	Areas of instability are likely on a variety of aspects and slope angles	Travel in avalanche terrain is unwise. Stay on lower slope angles or safer aspects as defined in the current bulletin.
EXTREME (black)	Natural - Certain Human Triggered - Certain Both - Widespread	Instability certain and widespread. Large avalanches are likely	Avoid avalanche terrain, including runout zones. Seek out low angle terrain unthreatened from above.

Avalanche Safety is up to You!

Avalanches don't happen by chance, and most people who get caught trigger the avalanche themselves. Even small slides can be dangerous or fatal, so watch for "terrain traps". Select your route wisely and carry avalanche rescue gear. Base your decisions on the "big picture" which should incorporate all information and observations. Be willing to modify your big picture as new observations are made and/or conditions change.

Take an avalanche course from a professional. A list is available on line at <http://www.csac.org/Education/>

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