



AIARE Level 2 Avalanche Course Outline

Day 1

CLASSROOM

Instructor and Student Introductions, Course Objectives,
Course Itinerary and Logistics, AMGA/AIARE Program Intro :45

Level 1 Quiz and Review 1:30

Case Study 1:00

LUNCH 1:00

FIELD SESSION – Location outside classroom if adequate terrain/snow

Companion Rescue Upgrade

- Induction Method Review
- Rescue Leadership and Strategic Shoveling
- Multiple Burial Techniques

Return to Classroom

Mountain Weather :45

Review of Seasonal Snowpack :20

Formation and Classification of New Snow : 45

Day 2

CLASSROOM

Pop Quiz/Review :20

Metamorphism, Sintering and Bonding 1:00

Weak Layers Characteristics :30

Snowpack Data Classes and Instability Factors :30

Intro to SWAG :20

Lunch

FIELD SESSION

Field Weather Demo

Full Snow Profile Demo

Return to classroom:

Recording Observations 1:00



Day 3

CLASSROOM

Pop Quiz / Review :15

Making Observations Relevant :45

Comparison of Shear Quality and Fracture Character :30

Lunch

FIELD SESSION

Test Profiles

Large Column Tests

Gathering Information/Observations over Terrain

Return to Classroom

Intro Instability Factor Checklist and Analysis :45

Intro snow stability rating :15

Day 4

CLASSROOM

Pop Quiz / Review :15

AM Stability Analysis/AM Weather Update/Stability Forecast :45

Trip Planning and Risk Management for Small Groups 1:00

FIELD SESSION

Group Tour

- Verify Stability Forecast
- Group Management / Terrain Selection/Travel Techniques

Return to Classroom

Tour Debrief :15

PM Instability Analysis :20

Course Close 1:00

Equipment List: course participants are required to arrive for each day prepared for both classroom and field sessions with all appropriate materials for both classroom and field activities. In most cases, lunch will occur during field sessions.

Personal Equipment:

- Clothing for activities and standing in cold/snowy weather (no cotton)
- long underwear
- insulating layers
- outer layer (wind/waterproof)
- warm gloves, mitts, headband, and hat
- Goggles and sunglasses
- Small personal first aid kit (sunscreen/lip-balm, moleskin, band-aids, medication, etc.)
- Water Bottle
- Pack



Skiing Equipment:

- Boots (touring boots recommended)
- Skis with touring bindings and skins (please adjust bindings to boots and skins to skis before the course). Randonee or free-heel gear.
- Poles

Snowboarding Equipment:

- Split Board with touring bindings and skins (please adjust bindings to boots and skins to board before the course) For students arriving at the course with snowboarding equipment, split boards are recommended, as compared to traveling with snowshoes.
- Boots
- Collapsible poles

Rescue Equipment:

- Avalanche probe
- Collapsible shovel
- Avalanche transceiver (457 kHz frequency only. Digital or analogue)
- Cell phone or two-way radio (OPTIONAL)

Other Equipment:

- Pack (large enough for all equipment on day ski-tours)
- Weather, Snowpack, and Avalanche Observation and Recording Equipment – required for Level 2 and Level 3
- Weather/Snow observation tools (see below)
- Snow saw or folding pruning saw (approx. 40cm blade).
- Snow thermometer (graduated in degrees Celsius). Dial stem and/or glass/alcohol types are commonly used. Electronic thermometers are acceptable but have limitations for snow profile work.
NOTE: If you bring thermometers calibrated in degrees Fahrenheit, you will be required to purchase or borrow a Celsius thermometer.
- Crystal identification screen. Dark color, metal screen is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**.
- Magnifier (8x or 10x **RECOMMENDED**).
- Folding rule (graduated in centimeters required. 2 meter length).
- Compass (Optional, compass with clinometer or bring separate clinometer)
- Altimeter (Optional)
- Field notebook (AIARE Field Notebook-provided)
- Pencil and spare
- Pocket Knife

Note: Pre-packaged snow observation kits sold in backcountry ski shops often have thermometers in °F, rulers in inches, white crystal cards that are difficult to see clear snow grains and magnifiers that are narrow, overpowered and difficult to see multiple grains or to identify grain size and type. Please take the extra effort to purchase standard magnifiers (available in photo shops or linen shops), darker crystal cards and 2m rulers.