

Canadian Avalanche Danger Descriptors 1996 / 97

Danger Level (& Color)	Avalanche Probability and Avalanche Trigger	Recommended Action in the Backcountry
... <i>WHAT</i> <i>WHY</i> <i>WHAT TO DO</i> ...
LOW (green)	Natural avalanches very unlikely. Human triggered avalanches <u>unlikely</u> .	Travel is generally safe. Normal caution is advised.
MODERATE (yellow)	Natural avalanches unlikely. Human triggered avalanches <u>possible</u> .	Use caution in steeper terrain on certain aspects (defined in accompanying statement).
CONSIDERABLE (orange)	Natural avalanches possible. Human triggered avalanches <u>probable</u> .	Be increasingly cautious in steeper terrain.
HIGH (red)	Natural and human triggered avalanches <u>likely</u> .	Travel in Avalanche Terrain is not recommended.
EXTREME (red with black border)	Widespread natural or human triggered avalanches <u>certain</u> .	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.

Western Canada - Avalanche Bulletin Contact Numbers

Vancouver	• 604 - 290 - 9333
Calgary	• 403 - 243 - 7253 (+7669) - Canadian Rockies Info
Banff National Park	• 403 - 762 - 1460
Alberta / BC	• 800 - 667 - 1105
Bulletin Board (BBS)	• 250 - 837 - 4893
Website - CAA	• http://www.avalanche.ca/snow
Website - CSAC	• http://www.csac.org

Other Contact Numbers

Rescue Dynamics	• 403 - 461 - 5040 - avalanche, climbing & skiing courses
Website Rescue Dynamics	• http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/resqdyn/
CAA Office	• 250 - 837 - 2435 - Revelstoke , BC

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